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5	15

Sunday, May 03, 2009

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Deep Recession

It's morning in America–but it's not a good morning. The nation is suffering in a deep recession.

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Poet Laureate

The centuries-old post of British poet laureate goes to a woman–Carol Ann Duffy–for the first time.

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Less Compact money for NMI

- NMI to get $2-$3M less due to fewer FAS migration—Pula
- Federalization unlikely to impact FAS citizens' travel to islands

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Pula

The CNMI will be getting $2 million to $3 million less in Compact Impact funding in Fiscal Year 2010 because of lesser migration of Freely Associated States citizens to the islands due to the economic slowdown, according to Nikolau Pula, acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

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FOOD FESTIVAL HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Customers check out the dishes at the Canton Restaurant booth during Saturday night's Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at the American Memorial Park in Garapan. The food festival will be held every Saturday in May, which is Tourism Month in the CNMI.

May Day ralliers demand better immigration status

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Hundreds joined Friday's peaceful May Day rally to press the federal government to grant permanent immigration status to immediate relatives of U.S. and Freely

See MAY DAY on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Ralliers hold up banners during Friday's May Day rally held from Garapan Fishing Base to the American Memorial Park.

Federal labor ombudsman selected

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A new federal labor ombudsman may start working next month, according to acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs Nikolao Pula.

Pula neither confirmed nor denied the selection of Pamela Brown as the federal labor ombudsman, a position she held from 1999 to 2002.

"The new ombudsman will probably begin next month. We're actually waiting to clear some of the background checking," Pula said.

He said the federal labor ombudsman selected is already in the CNMI.

"It won't be a surprise," he added.

The federal labor ombudsman's position has been vacant

See FEDERAL on Page 4

Not enough stock of antiviral at CHC

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

In case of a full-scale pandemic, there are not enough antiviral medicines at the Commonwealth Health Center at present.

But the Department of Public Health Emergency Operations Center and the In-Patient Pharmacy at the CHC said they have already asked for more supplies from the Centers for Disease Control, the federal government agency that handles the distribution of supplies in times of disasters.

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RELATED NEWS

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Local

Live the Fiesta Way!
What's cooking this week at Chambre BAR
Healthy Menu
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MONDAY- Salmon with Mustard, Dill Sauce
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Pork products still a hot sell at Taste

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The local health department's assurances and the information campaign of the World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control seem to be working, with the ongoing swine flu scare having little to no effect on the buying pattern of pork consumers on Saipan.

Although called "swine flu," the current form of the virus shows that it is not transmitted from pigs to humans but from person to person. The CNMI Department of Public Health says the proper term for the disease is H1N1 influenza.

A check with the staff of nine of the major hotels and restaurants participating at the opening day of the 11th Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden last Saturday at the American Memorial Park showed that people were still buying pork products.

In fact, both Elegance Café and Herman's Modern Bakery reported that they brought two roasted pigs each and these were sold out.

"We ran out of supply for the roasted pig," said Mita Sablan, sales manager for Herman's Modern Bakery.

Sablan said the H1N1 flu "is a kind of airborne disease" that is passed by infected people.

Pork supplies to the CNMI mostly originate from the U.S. mainland, she said.

Capricciosa, whose barbecued pork skewers and spare ribs were instant hits among customers, also said its supplies of pork come from the US.

Elegance Café Supervisor Leigh David said the two roasted pigs they brought did not last long. "There's no effect," she said.

Robert Casilla, Capricciosa's kitchen supervisor, said there is no swine flu scare, while Hafa Adai Food and Beverage supervisor Tess Guerrero said people still buy their pork products.

Fiesta Resort and Spa's Outlet Manager Oscar J. Yema said they ran out of pork products because their barbecue pit could hardly meet the demand.

"Sales is so fast, even with our pork," he said.

Nolie Trazo, Catering Services Supervisor for Hyatt Regency Saipan, said their hotel makes sure that they are updated regularly on the health advisories and that they follow instructions like using proper hygiene for the safety of their customers.

Aqua Resort Club Executive sous chef Arnel Marquez said their chicken is more saleable compared to pork but this, he said, is not because of the swine flu scare.

"We brought a smaller supply of pork but we sold about 35 boxes, which was 95 percent of the supply," he said.

The World Health Organization recently raised the pandemic alert to phase 5, which means it is just a step away from its highest level of phase 6.

Phase 5 means the transmission of the H1N1 influenza is person-to-person.

The virus has already affected hundreds in its epicenter in a rural town in Mexico and has threatened the U.S. mainland, particularly in New York, California and Ohio, to Asia and Europe.

Restaurants urged to step up campaign vs H1N1 influenza

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The Emergency Operations Center of the Department of Public Health is urging restaurants to take preventive measures to combat the spread of H1N1 influenza.

Public Health program analyst Roxanne Diaz said that restaurants should see to it that they follow guidelines or advisories for the safety of their customers.

EOC staff, she said, will be visiting restaurants and hotels to check if they are making available basic hygiene materials for their customers like soap, clean water supply, towels, or paper tissues.

Diaz said they would like restaurants to do their part in ensuring that they have procedures in place that would prevent the spread of the virus, just in case it shows up on the islands.

As to whether pork is safe to eat, DPH assured there's nothing to be scared about pork.

"It's safe to eat pork," Diaz said.

Some countries have already taken extra preventive efforts like banning the entry of pork that originates from the United States and Canada.

The virus H1N1 usually do not infect humans since infections happen mainly in persons with direct exposure to pigs. The infection can then be passed person to person.

The virus is spread the same way that seasonal flu spreads, mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing of people with the flu.

People can also become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose.

The symptoms of swine flu in people are similar to the symptoms of regular seasonal flu and include high fever (100°F/73.8°C), coughing, runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

Ferry service between Guam-CNMI pushed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Sen. Paul A. Manglona is seeking federal funding for transportation infrastructure on the islands and is proposing the idea of establishing a regular ferry service between the CNMI and Guam.

"Tying our islands' economies through reliable ocean ferry service would certainly be mutually beneficial to Guam and the CNMI," Manglona said in an April 30 letter to CNMI Delegate Gregorio C. "Kilili" Sablan.

The only means of transportation between Guam and the CNMI is air travel.

The Rota senator's letter to Sablan mainly focused on Public Law 109-59 or the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), and the successive legislation that will govern U.S. federal transportation spending.

Manglona said P.L. 109-59 will expire on Sept. 30, 2009, and that Congress is currently working on a replacement bill for the following six-year period.

"If you have not already done so, I respectfully request that your office begin to work with the current administration and the appropriate legislative committees to ensure that the CNMI may secure funding from this proposed legislation," Manglona told Sablan.

With guaranteed funding for highways, highway safety, and public transportation totaling $244.1 billion, SAFETEA-LU represents the largest surface transportation investment in U.S. history. SAFETEA-LU was signed on Aug. 10, 2005

In 2005, the CNMI was successful in obtaining $12 million under the SAFETEA-LU to improve and maintain transportation infrastructure on the islands. This was in addition to the annual federal highway funding of some $4 million that the CNMI receives.

The 2005 funding was used to initiate the Talafofo highway project which will link neighboring communities on Saipan and enhance the island's tourism appeal.

Manglona said there are still many transportation infrastructure projects in the CNMI that have been stalled and/or in need of funding, particularly on Rota.

"It is my sincere hope that by working closely with the Obama administration, and with your colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, you may be able to secure sufficient funding for these projects in the CNMI, and perhaps obtain an increase in the annual appropriations that were set in 2005," he added.

Manglona met with Jim Hatashima of the U.S. Army

See FERRY on Next Page

Airport revenue up $1.6M; seaport down 12 pct

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

In the first six months of the current fiscal year, the Commonwealth Ports Authority posted a significant $1.6 million increase in its airport revenue. However, the agency's seaport income went down by 12 percent during the same period from October 2008 to March 2009.

The increase in the airport's current revenues was attributed to the higher fees being enforced and the termination of the airlines incentive program.

Saipan Tribune learned that total airport operating costs decreased by $97,000, reflecting the austerity programs being implemented, minus increased maintenance costs.

This has resulted in an operating income before depreciation of $917,000 and an increase of nearly $1.8 million over the prior year.

Documents showed that the airport's income before depreciation totaled $1.512 million, significantly better than last year's $268,000.

Despite this overall increase, Rota and Tinian airports continue to generate sizeable losses, which are estimated to reach $1 million for the full year.

Additionally, while revenues increased greatly, the amount of collection declined by nearly 21 percent, which represents a true decline in the number of passengers.

At CNMI seaports, revenues are down 12 percent or by $352,000. However, total operating costs also declined by 30 percent, or $367,000.

Non-operating cost was virtually the same at $1.1 million and the resulting net income before depreciation increased slightly to $482,000.

'Saipan subsidizing Rota, Tinian'

Like the airports, the seaports of Rota and Tinian vastly underperformed the Saipan facility, primarily due to limited revenues and the high cost of personnel.

CPA management said that while the importance of airports and seaports on these two islands is unquestioned, the financial subsidy paid by Saipan is growing.

CPA management and the board of directors said they need to consider strategies that can reduce this subsidy amount.

'Airport ratio now at .90'

CPA management also disclosed that while progress has been made, the agency still has to meet the required ratio for its bond indenture, based on the six-month data.

Currently, the airport ratio is approximately .90; the ideal ratio is 1.25.

It is hoped that with the additional flights beginning this month, progress can be made to reach the ratio.

CUC is told to get rid of old power plant mess at airport

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Since the government shut down the old power plant at the airport site several years ago, several drums filled with used oil remain stored in the area, posing a great environmental hazard that is just waiting to happen at the Saipan International Airport.

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Efrain F. Camacho disclosed this matter to the board during Thursday's meeting, when he reported on the long-overdue work that was supposed to be done by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Camacho said that CPA had already written CUC executive director Antonio Muña, discussing the possible great environmental catastrophe that may happen at the site if the "mess" is not properly disposed of.

He said the old CUC power plant at the airport has been closed for years and is apparently being used to store drums filled with used petroleum products.

"The storage of the used petroleum products on CPA property is a big environmental problem just waiting to happen…" Camacho told the board.

Because CPA has no written record for use of the property by CUC, Camacho said CPA is taking the initiative to make sure that any potential environmental concerns are removed.

CPA is demanding that CUC's use of the property be put in writing in the form of a memorandum of agreement that, in consideration for CUC's use of the property, the utilities company shall indemnify and hold CPA harmless for any and all environmental violations, fines, and corrective measures and costs.

Camacho, in his letter to Muña, said if CUC has any documents relating to the use of the property or any Environmental Protection Agency report indicating that CUC is the responsible party for any environmental issues, he wants these documents be shown to CPA.

Camacho said that CUC must develop a plan to remove everything from the premises as the property is part of the airport's expansion plan.

He said Thursday that, although he did not get a response from CUC, a meeting with Muña took place. The CUC official, Camacho reported, was receptive to the issues discussed by CPA.

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DFS employees now major donors of MMAC

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Members of DFS Galleria Employees Association became major donors of the Marianas March Against Cancer following the turnover of a $1,000 check last week.

MMAC chair David Rosario and adviser Jack Hardy received the check from area general manager Shogo Ando and assistant manager Ben Babauta.

Rosario expressed appreciation for the gesture and assured that the money would help a lot in promoting their cause such as educating the families of cancer victims in the CNMI.

"This caught us by surprise," said Rosario of the donation during the simple turnover ceremony at the DFS administrative office.

DFS has around 130 employees.

Ando said some of the employees have cancer victims in their families.

He said the association is very supportive of the MMAC and other organizations with similar objectives to help other victims.

Rosario said they are glad that many private companies like the two communication giants IT&E and Docomo have thrown their full support to their cause.

Three banks have also given their full assistance to the MMAC: Bank of Saipan, Bank of Hawaii, and Bank of Guam.

MMAC estimates that there are about 200 cancer victims in the CNMI but most do not want to come out in public.

Nardy said there are only about 50 identified as survivors.

"We lost six last year," Nardy said.

"It's a universal problem and it also needs some political involvement," said Babauta.

The MMAC is the fundraising arm of the American Cancer Society in the CNMI and the group has already raised some $250,000 in a span of four years.

FERRY

From Page 3

Corps of Engineers during a public hearing on Rota's transportation master plan, which identifies projects eligible for federal funding.

"I am optimistic that the funding sources mentioned above may also be used toward completing Rota's master plan and the critical infrastructure projects identified within," Manglona said.

He also applauded Sablan for his hard work in representing the CNMI in Washington, D.C. and hopes that he will continue to do so as Congress debates legislation for federal transportation funding.

MAY DAY

From Page 1

Associated States citizens, long-term alien workers and other classes of nonresidents.

"Improved immigration status," the crowd chanted as they converged, lit candles and listened to resource speakers at the American Memorial Park amphitheater after a 20-minute march from the Garapan Fishing Base.

Adults and children of different races held placards and banners that read, "Influence the federalization process," "Keep our families together," "Recognize years of service, contribution to the community," "Don't let us be left behind," "Protect our parents to protect us," "May Day Rally," "Improve status for long-term guest workers," and "Green card for NMI guest workers."

Rita Doca, 13, a U.S. citizen, said she hopes the federal government will grant permanent status for long-term nonresident workers like her parents from the Philippines.

"I don't want to separate from my parents. It's important for us to be with our family," she told *Saipan Tribune* as the crowd prepared to march.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement NMI, said they held the rally ahead of the May 19 oversight hearing by the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife on the implementation of the federalization law in the CNMI so their concerns will be heard.

Many in the crowd of marchers said the May Day rally could be their last chance to influence the drafting of the two remaining federalization regulations—the transitional workers program and the student and investor visa program. The Guam-CNMI visa waiver program regulations have already been published.

Human rights advocate Wendy Doromal, in a message for the marchers, said the signing of the federalization law or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act (Public Law 110-229), stands as a major landmark along the journey for political and social rights in the CNMI.

She said the delay of the transition gives additional time to ensure that the voices of nonresidents in the CNMI are heard loudly and clearly in Washington, D.C. where important decisions will be made. She said the CNMI government is also offering input on the plan.

"This is astounding and frightening considering that the CMI government and Department of Labor are responsible for establishing and promoting the dysfunctional labor system that keeps the majority of the population disenfranchised and indentured in a two-tiered society," Doromal said.

She added, "It is time to ensure that a secure status is granted to CNMI permanent residents, immediate relatives of United States and FSM citizens and other categories of nonresidents during the transition period. We must not allow families to be divided and torn apart."

Touhida Alam, 40, said she and her husband have long been professionals on Saipan; she as an accountant for 13 years and her husband an engineer first with the Department of Public Works then at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for a total of 13 years.

"We want better status because we have been here for a long time. I hope they will give us the opportunity," said Alam, who has three children, two of whom are U.S. citizens.

Galvin Deleon Guerrero, a former principal of Mount Carmel School and running mate of former Gov. Juan N. Babauta in the November 2009 elections, said it is time for the CNMI to move past the politics of blame, and move toward a politics of hope.

"In that spirit of hope, I stand here tonight, in support of those who have been oppressed for far too long," said Guerrero in his impassioned speech that drew cheers from the crowd who gathered on stage to shield themselves from the rain.

Wang Zhou Nin, 58, said he's been on Saipan for 16 years as a businessman. When the garment factories started closing one after the other in 2005, he closed his restaurant business and is now only renting apartments.

"I joined the rally because I would like the federal government to give me status so I can go to Hawaii and visit my daughter. I want to see her and that's my priority—to see her," he said in an interview at the American Memorial Park grandstand.

Dr. Gene Silvester Oden and other guest speakers who addressed the marchers expressed support to the cause of nonresidents asking for improved immigration status in the CNMI. Oden also recalled how government officials—with the aid of disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff—kept wages low for years.

Rep. Tina Sablan, lawyer Steve Woodruff, Ron Hodges and Simon Sin also addressed the crowd.

Although much smaller than the historic December 2007 unity march that drew thousands, organizers of the May Day rally said their objectives were met. They thanked all the participants, guest speakers, and those who contributed materials and services to make the banners and placards. Joining the rally were U.S. citizens, local residents, Filipinos, Chinese, Koreans, Bangladeshis, Nepalese and other foreigners.

"Definitely it's a successful rally. We were able to peacefully express our request to the federal government," said Doca.

Ronnie Reyes, board chairman of the United Workers Movement NMI, said in their hearts they believe the federal government will not fail them.

The May 1 rally organizers listed 11 specific objectives, including influence the federalization process, revise Public Law 110-220 or the federalization law, stabilize the workforce, free labor market, benefits for business and workers, equal treatment of local and foreign workers, reform of the CNMI labor and immigration system, provide a remedy for those the system has failed, protect families and children, recognize years of service and contributions to the community, and rebuild the CNMI economy.

May Day, which occurs on May 1, is synonymous with International Workers' Day or Labor Day, which celebrates the social and economic achievements of the labor movement worldwide.

ANTIVIRAL

From Page 1

At present, there are about 3,000 capsules of Tamiflu that are ready to be released should the H1N1 influenza reaches the Commonwealth.

Anthony E. Raho, director of the Department of Pharmacy Services, said these are good enough for 300 patients.

Raho said additional supplies are expected to arrive before the end of May but he could not determine the exact volume at this point.

Aside from the antiviral medicine Tamiflu and Relenza, the incoming supply would also include emergency items like protective masks.

Right now, only Tamiflu is available in the CNMI.

The regular price of a box of 10 capsules (75mg), which is good for one patient, costs $113.29 at the PHI Pharmacy inside CHC.

The supplies at the in-patient pharmacy would be given free to patients but so far there is no order yet from the OEC to release the available supply.

Raho explained that all U.S. states and territories are entitled to receive the supplies through the Federal Strategic National Stockpile System.

As of this time, CDC is prioritizing areas with confirmed H1N1 cases like New York, California and Ohio.

The World Health Organization on Thursday raised the pandemic alert level to Phase 5 on the swine flu virus that has killed 165 people in Mexico.

This means the virus is becoming increasingly adapted to humans but may not yet be fully transmissible.

Ed Diaz of the DPH Emergency Operations Center clarified that the disease is no longer called swine flu.

"The proper term for this virus is influenza H1N1," Diaz said.

Diaz said the EOC is on 24-hour alert because WHO's advisory is just one step away from the highest pandemic alert level of Phase 6.

Phase 6 means there is a full-scale outbreak of the virus.

If the alert level goes up, the EOC is ready to put some of its staff at the airport to monitor incoming tourists.

Public Health program analyst Roxanne Diaz said anyone who is found with a cold or flu would be thoroughly screened or examined as part of precautionary measures.

FEDERAL

From Page 1

since Sept. 15, 2008, when Jim Benedetto resigned to join the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The U.S. Congress created the Federal Ombudsman's Office in 1998 amid unfavorable news stories documenting labor and human rights abuses against alien workers in the CNMI.

The office provides assistance to the CNMI's nonresident workers with labor and immigration complaints. Specifically, it screens worker complaints to determine whether there may be violations of CNMI and federal labor laws.

In 1999, attorney Pamela Brown was appointed to become the first federal ombudsman. Benedetto succeeded her in October 2002, and in November 2007, the U.S. Department of the Interior extended Benedetto's contract for another three years.

There were 53 applicants for the job. Four of them made the "competitive certificate list." Each of the four who made the list had a Saipan mailing address.

According to a job announcement posted on the official federal government website last year, the DOI is looking for candidates who have "a strong background in managing an office and supervising others and extensive knowledge of labor, immigration, civil rights and or criminal law."

Appointments to the position will be for two years, with possible extensions of up to a total of four years. The salary range is from $68,625 t $105,420 a year, plus a cost of living adjustment of up to 25 percent.

LESS COMPACT

From Page 1

Pula also said that federalization is unlikely to change travel requirements for FAS citizens entering the CNMI.

"Right now, Freely Associated States citizens can travel to the United States without having to acquire visas because of the Compacts so I think that's the same way they're coming here or to Guam. I don't think that's going to change," he said, adding that lost job opportunities in the CNMI resulted in lesser FAS citizens coming here compared to Guam where the military buildup is starting to grow the economy.

The CNMI saw a 41 percent decline in the FAS citizen population, now at only 2,001, based on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2009 survey.

Guam, however, saw an 86 percent growth in FAS citizen population, from only about 10,000 in 2003 to 18,305 in 2008.

Survey figures suggest that the increase could have been triggered by the intermigration of FAS citizens from the CNMI, which has seen an economic slowdown due to the demise of the garment industry and weak tourism.

Pula, who is currently on Saipan to follow up on the status of Interior-funded capital improvement projects and the island's power situation, said he does not have the exact figure yet as to how much the CNMI stands to get in Compact Impact funding for FY 2010.

"All I know is, as far as money goes, the CNMI is going to lose between $2 and $3 million. They used to receive about $5 million," he said.

Pula said the U.S. Census Bureau conducts a survey of FAS citizens every five years.

"The count of the enumeration basically came out that more people from the Freely Associated States migrated to Guam, then Hawaii, then CNMI. Because of the decrease in the amount of Micronesians here, CNMI is going to lose some of the money for Compact Impact that used to come here because the enumeration result is based on the count that was done," Pula added.

Under a Compact between the United States and FAS, citizens of FAS are free to travel, work and study in the U.S. and its territories without U.S. visas.

Guam, Hawaii, American Samoa and the CNMI share $30 million in Compact Impact funding that the Interior Department releases every year. The federal funding goes mainly to health, social service, public safety and education agencies for accommodating or providing services to FAS citizens.

Guam gets the lion's share of the funding. The annual appropriation is reviewed every five years for possible realignment of allocations among recipient jurisdictions.

Pacquiao fans create record crowd at World Resort

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Despite an initial report of slow ticket sales, fans of Filipino boxing icon Manny Pacquiao turned up in record numbers yesterday to watch his fight against United Kingdom's Ricky Hatton live via satellite at the Saipan World Resort.

Though a little bit disappointed because it ended quickly, the predominantly Filipino crowd brought the house down at the Taga Hall and Red Box Sports Bar when Pacquiao knocked out Hatton during the second round of their bout.

Mark Birmingham of MCV Broadband said it was the biggest ever crowd for them, exceeding the crowd that watched the Pacquiao-Oscar Dela Hoya match last October.

Pacquiao knocked out Hatton in the second round with a powerful left to the head that sent the English fighter to the canvass during their 140-lb title bout at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

MCV Broadband now expects a bigger crowd in the next Pacquiao fight, especially in the event of a deal with Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Mayweather was the undisputed pound-for-pound boxer before his retirement a few years back.

"We are happy. We need to increase the seats next time. We need a bigger venue," said Birmingham.

Birmingham said they did not really expect people to come and watch but yesterday's tickets were sold out at the doors.

Gov. Benigno Fitial was one of those who watched at the Red Box Sports Bar.

Ronald Sanchez, Saipan World Resort's banquet and restaurant manager, said those who came to watch the fight exceeded the capacity for both the general admission and the VIP Room.

For businessman John Jones, the 3-1 odds for Pacquiao could actually have been 10-1.

"Pacquiao is such an amazing fighter. He's got real determination to win. He fights from his heart and soul," Jones said.

Saipan long-time resident and court reporter Patricia A. Garshak said Hatton was no match for Pacquiao.

"Manny Pacquiao is a heart and soul fighter, just like the Latino fighters," said Garshak, who is a native of Puerto Rico.

Hatton had too much expectations of himself but there was so much difference between the two fighters.

"There's no way Pacquiao could lose because, no matter what, he must win any fight. Latino fighters have the same motivation. They fight from their humble beginnings," she said.

Jones said he closely watched the pre-fight viewing and learned a lot about the Filipino fighter.

"I like that part and the photos were very good," Jones said.

MARPAC's Jojo Camacho said they are glad the fans came out and they are looking forward to the next Pacquiao fight.

Birmingham said Pacquiao is now the biggest boxer in the United States.

"Pacquiao keeps getting better and better," said James Matsumoto of Wells Fargo.

"I'm just a fan but I like the way he takes care of his fights. There's no doubt that he's the best in the world now. He keeps on listening and concentrates on training," Matsumoto said.

He said that unlike others who begin to lose control when they reach the top, Pacquiao is the opposite.

Matsumoto said Pacquiao won not only because of his speed but also because he is more powerful this time.

"I think the key for the win is that he's a humble fighter," he said.

Mike Cruz of the Fil-Taga Golf Association joked that the fight was "not worth it."

"I paid more and watched less," he grinned.

He said he had predicted that the fight will last seven rounds and that the two fighters will get tired first before Pacquiao achieves victory.

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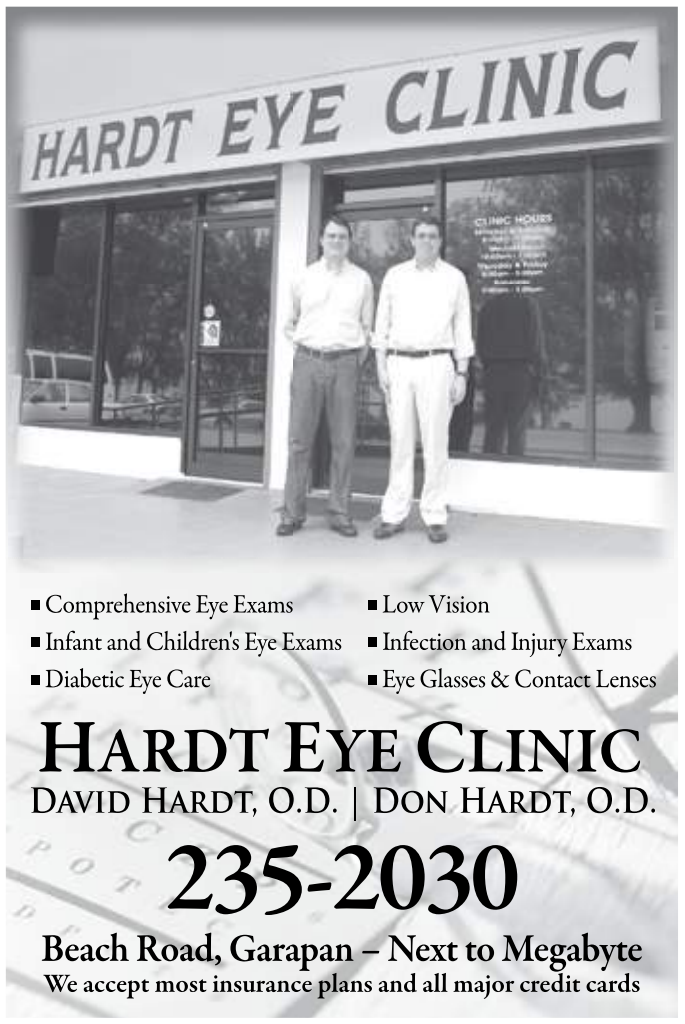
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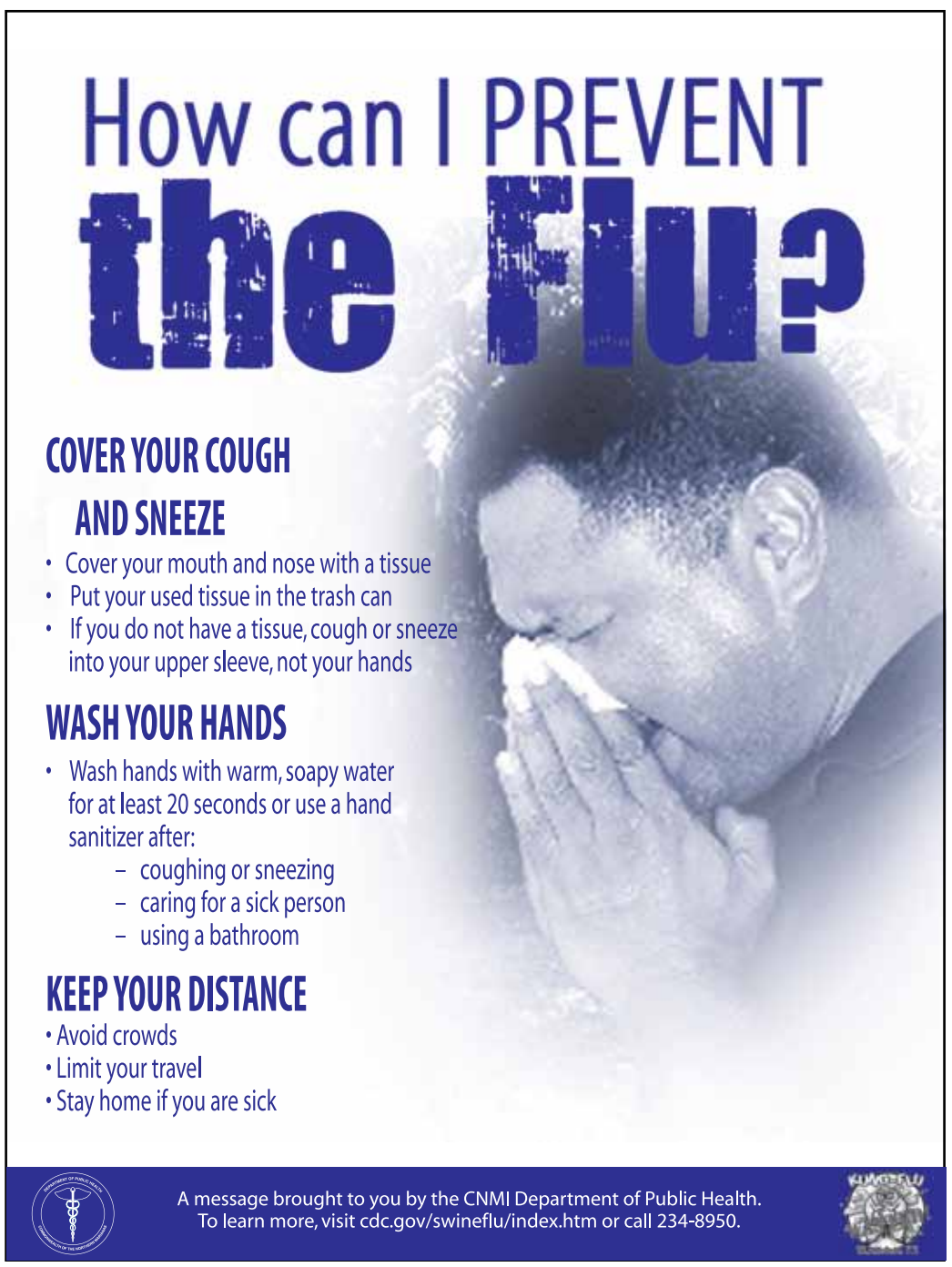
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CNMI municipal employees are spared from furloughs—for now

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Municipal employees on the three islands will be spared from any government furloughs after the Fitial administration decided to hold off the plan—at least for now, according to acting Office of Management Budget director Esther Fleming.

Prior reports had it that Commonwealth municipalities are all suffering from major deficits in their personnel account, which may bar them from keeping all their employees until the end of the fiscal year in September.

Fleming said the decision to temporarily hold off the furloughs was due to the anticipated entry of stimulus funds that the CNMI will get from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, a portion of which the governor is provided discretion to use as he sees fit.

"No furlough letters were issued out [to employees]…as of today. The governor is waiting for some stimulus money that could help address the personnel shortfall in the municipalities. The anticipated money is part of the stimulus funds recently approved for [the Public School System]," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

On Wednesday, Fleming disclosed that Rota incurred a $165,000 shortfall for personnel last month while Tinian has recorded a personnel deficit of $105,000.

The Fitial administration earlier announced that municipal employees, including the Saipan Mayor's Office personnel, would be the hardest hit by the furlough plan.

However, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela was immediately able to identify funding that could save all his personnel.

"The Saipan mayor had indicated in our meetings that he would no longer implement the plan in his office because several positions were not filled and will not be filled at the moment to keep others' job at the department," Fleming said, adding that the administration has agreed to the mayor's decision.

While waiting for the stimulus grant, Fleming said that both Tinian and Rota mayors have been advised to be cautious with their budgets until the end of FY 2009.

"It's not an easy year for us. …What we advised them is to put expenditure controls on operations. We even recommended using recyclable materials for their supplies," she said, adding that it's quite fortunate the stimulus grants came amid the tough economic situation.

Saipan Tribune learned that the CNMI has close to 300 employees at the three mayors' offices: Saipan (50), Tinian (134), and Rota (99).

CIP funds eyed for Tinian homestead infrastructure

Sen. Jude Hofschneider said local capital improvement project funding is being eyed for the development of power, water, sewer and road infrastructure on Tinian, where 429 homestead lots were distributed by the Department of Public Lands on Thursday.

"We will get the true numbers as son as we work together with appropriate agencies like DPW (Department of Public Works, or if DPL can come up with estimates," Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune.*

He thanked DPL and its Secretary, John Del Rosario, and staff, especially Tinian director Ray M. Cing, for their hard work and dedication in distributing the homestead lots to families who had waited for years.

"I believe it's a victory for the people to finally get their homesteads and I urge them to comply with the provisions set forth in the homestead rules and procedures…to put some value to the land they received," the senator added.

Del Rosario earlier said Tinian families are given four years—instead of three—to develop their homestead lot.

But the areas where these homestead lots are located do not have basic infrastructure yet such as power, water, sewer and paved roads.

Each homestead lot has a size of anywhere between 800 square meters to 1,000 sq.m. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

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***BRUCE L. MAILMAN** is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989*

***MAYA B. KARA** is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer*

131 drop out of public schools last school year

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A total of 131 students left public schools last school year in the middle of class semesters, based on Public School System records.

Of that number, most were from high school, numbering a total of 114 students. Dropout from middle schools totaled 29.

Saipan Tribune learned that there was a total of 3,159 students enrolled in public high schools in school year 2007-2008. With 114 dropouts, this translates to 3.61 percent of the population.

From seventh to eight grades, PSS recorded a total enrollment of 1,182 last school year. With 29 leaving school before classes ended, this accounts for 2.45 percent of middle school students dropping out.

Dropouts are those students who exited their school for various reasons and have not returned the following year.

PSS data indicated that students in high schools have a higher percentage of dropouts based on student enrollment, compared to junior high school students.

A significant dropout rate was also evident in PSS' Advance Development Institute, which was suspended early this year due to budget constraint and consistently low graduation turnout.

In SY 2007-2008, PSS reported that there were only 14 graduates of this program.

Saipan Tribune learned that during the semester term of August 2007 to October 2007, PSS recorded a total ADI enrollment of 100. Of the figure, 54 were female while 46 were males.

Twenty of these "students" were employed with private and government offices while a big bulk—80—were unemployed.

The same PSS records showed that the reasons given for dropping out of school included attendance problems, lack of motivation, needing money for the family, family matters, pregnancy, and wrong peers.

Among these reasons, the attendance problem and the wrong choice of friends as well as teen pregnancy ranked the highest. Thirteen of these dropouts were due to pregnancies; 13 students were influenced by wrong friends; and 13 say they needed to work so they could earn money for the family.

BASED ON ALLEGIANCE CORP.'S PROPOSAL:

$100M annual economic benefit eyed for CNMI

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI stands to generate over $100 million in annual economic benefit if the business proposal of Allegiance Capital Corp. pushes through as scheduled, according to a company representative.

In a recent presentation to the Commonwealth Ports Authority board, Kenneth Mahmood said the proposed business, dubbed the Saipan Dry Dock and Repair Facilities project, will cost an estimated total of $100 million to $150 million to build.

He said this would bring the CNMI $100 million in annual benefits that would include revenues from port leases, public land leases, business, and import taxes.

It will also provide a vocational training center, with 40 percent reserved for local construction workers, Mahmood said.

CPA board chair Jose Lifoifoi said the board needs to call on the company again to further discuss the project.

It was earlier reported that a 25-year lease is being drafted between the CPA and Allegiance.

Based on its proposal, up to 900 jobs will be created that will provide above-minimum wage to workers.

Dry-dock project

The project, a partnership between Allegiance Capital Corp. and Saipan Shipyard LLC, will involve constructing a dry dock ship repair facility at the north and south seaplane ramps in Lower Base, extending south to the Echo pier.

They said this project will be built to Department of Defense standards and will be operated by a first class shipyard management company.

Saipan Tribune learned that the proposed shipyard will contain two graving docks of up to 900 feet in length, a fuel depot, and several repair, fabrication, and administrative facilities located around it.

Its primary market will be the U.S. Navy but it would also serve other customers like U.S. cruise ship vessels, commercial cargo ships, barge companies and local ship owners.

According to a 2008 Government Accounting Office report, the U.S. Navy needs to develop and implement a plan to ensure that voyage repairs are available to ships operating near Guam when needed.

Allegiance Capital Corp. admitted that the military buildup in Guam was the primary reason why they selected Saipan as the location of its business.

'Who will be affected in Lower Base?'

There are five major areas that will be affected by the proposed investment at Lower Base. These include the lower seaplane ramps, Echo dock, former CUC and DPW properties, DPW repair shop property, and the CUC power plant property.

The company said CPA will not lose any of its existing income from current lessees since the existing lease holders will continue to use their current leased space until construction needs require them to move.

The company said it is willing pay half of the monthly base lease rate of each lessee while initial environmental and engineering studies confirm the feasibility of the site and permitting is granted to allow construction.

First table skirting competition a 'success' despite small crowd

The first table skirting competition might have drawn a small crowd but it was an instant success, with the three contestants showcasing their skills in conference setting.

The competition was a side event at the opening night of the 11th Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at the American Memorial Park last Saturday.

Fiesta Resort and Spa bartender Ronnie Guevarra won the inaugural competition by garnering a total of 200 points.

The contestants were judged according to several criteria that included difficulty of the design, balancing of the decorated table and the design's appeal.

Guevarra

They were given 35 minutes to complete the design.

For his design, Guevarra said he needed to bring the tablecloth home and practice doing it before perfecting the process.

He has been employed with the hotel for 16 years but this is the first time he entered in a competition like this.

Guevarra is no stranger to winning because he topped the bartending competition once.

The two other competitors were Jimmy Maclang of Saipan World Resort (second) and Mar Santiago of Aqua Resort Club (third). All three received trophies.

Maclang, who has been with the hotel for three years but only learned table skirting six months ago, earned 175 points from the judges while 16-year bartender Santiago got 160. ***(Nazario Rodriguez)***

Kilili seeks support in fight vs breast cancer

Washington, D.C—CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan has joined fellow members of Congress Gerry Connolly (D-VA) and Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D-FL) in recognizing the achievements of the Susan G. Komen Foundation in the fight against breast cancer.

Their bill, House Concurrent Resolution 109, encourages Americans to participate in the Foundation's fundraisers, including the June 6 Race for the Cure. The bill also expresses admiration for those who have survived the disease and support for those currently battling it. Wasserman-Schultz is herself a breast cancer survivor.

"I am amazed by the courage of the women and men who fight this disease," Sablan said. "People like Mrs. Wasserman-Schultz are role models to us all for their inspiring determination.

Wasserman-Schultz announced in March that, while campaigning for re-election and volunteering on the presidential campaign, she had also been battling breast cancer, going to chemotherapy and radiation treatments in secret, often heading straight back to the office to complete her congressional duties.

In March, Sablan co-sponsored the EARLY Act, written by Wasserman-Schultz, which promotes education for early detection and treatment of breast cancer.

"I am so glad we could work together to promote awareness of this disease," Sablan said of his work with Wasserman-Schultz.

Sablan also congratulated those in the Northern Marianas who have been active in the fight against breast cancer. Last year Saipan even fielded its own team to participate in the Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk in Seattle. The "Saipan Sweet Feet" team included Bobbi Grizzard, Marian Aldan Pierce, Clarie Kosak, Pam Brown, Rhoda Smith, Roberta Guerrero, Kazuyo Tojo, and Corrine Loprinzi (Brown's sister-in-law from Portland, Oregon).

Money raised in the 3-Day Walk goes to medical research, but also provides support for those with the disease and their families. This year the Komen Foundation offered $10,000, 4-year scholarships to students who would otherwise find attending college to be unaffordable due to the loss of a parent to breast cancer. Information about the 3-Day Walk is available at http://www.the3day.org.

"I encourage Americans to participate in the Komen Race for the Cure and Walk for the Cure to help this wonderful foundation which is really making a difference in the lives of so many," said Sablan.

Over a million women around the world are diagnosed with the breast cancer every year, and 456,000 die from it.

Over 50,000 participants, including 4,000 breast cancer survivors, are expected to participate in this year's National Race for the Cure in Washington, D.C., and even more will walk and run around the world. Last year, participants in these races raised over $3 million to fund research grants and educational programs.

All told the Komen Foundation has invested nearly $1.2 billion in the fight against breast cancer. ***(PR)***

Saipan to host regional environmental conference

Registration is now open for the 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference, which will be held on Saipan on June 22 to June 25, 2009, and is expected to draw attendance from government officials and environmental leaders across the Pacific as well as the U.S. mainland.

This year's theme is "Climate of Change: Energizing a Sustainable Future for Pacific Islands."

The conference is designed to provide a forum for leaders throughout the Pacific Basin to focus on important environmental issues through excellent speakers and interactive roundtable sessions.

On Monday, June 22, there will be pre-conference workshops and a CNMI Energy Summit. The formal PIEC conference agenda runs from June 23 to 25 and will feature both plenary and breakout sessions with a strong focus on clean energy and climate change. Field trips will be held the afternoon of Thursday, June 25.

The Pacific Islands Environment Conference is jointly sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the governments of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and American Samoa. Register today at www.regonline.com/PIEC2009.

There is no registration fee for the conference, although the field trips and some lunches are subject to a fee. A block of rooms has been set aside at the Saipan World Resort for conference attendees, with rates starting at $100 per night (tax included). Airport transfers are available for a fee. Discounted rental car rates are being negotiated and additional details will be available soon. Those interested in participating in the conference are being urged to use the hotel reservation form on the registration Web site to reserve their room before the May 22 deadline.

For more information about the conference, contact Nuria Muñiz at (415) 972-3811 or muniz.nuria@epa.gov, or Michael Mann at (415) 972-3505 or mann.michael@epa.gov. For information on exhibit opportunities, contact Fran Castro at 670-664-8500 or francastro@deq.gov.mp.

For additional information and registration, visit www.regonline.com/PIEC2009. ***(PR)***

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Zoning Office

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

In our continued efforts to provide efficient and more improved services to the public, our office will be implementing an adjusted schedule of office operation on the following dates:

- **April 29th , April 30th, and May 1st , 2009 (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday):**
  Office doors will be closed for permit processing
- **May 4th thru May 8th , 2009**
  7:30am to 12:00pm - Office doors will open for servicing
  12:00pm to 4:30pm - Office doors will close for processing

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Zoning Staff & Management

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MAY 4, 1999

No extra money for PSS

Some 50 public school teachers, staff and parents yesterday stormed the Governor's Office to lobby for additional funding in another bid to prevent the suspension of the kindergarten program and further layoffs in the education sector Confronted with financial troubles, the Public School System is currently implementing deep cost-cutting steps that include non-renewal of employment contracts of close to 300 non-teaching personnel and elimination of the Headstart program. The governor, however, explained declining revenues are tying his hands to commit extra money for the sector. "In the event that our economy improves, we will make sure that PSS will be given additional funding," he said.

Legislature scrambles for cash to fund pet projects

The powerful House Ways and Means Committee has been instructed to check into the availability of funds under a previous appropriation law in an an obvious attempt to raise funds for several pet projects of legislators seeking reelection. Rep. Karl T. Reyes is expected to meet this week with officials from finance and public works departments as well as from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to see whether there is still remaining balance from the $23 million allocated by the Legislature in 1994 for road, sewer and water projects. The move stemmed from attempts by House members to scramble for funds to push their respective projects in precinct level which are otherwise not qualified to receive money under the Capital Improvement Projects.

MAY 4, 2000

Gov't agencies ignore OPA recommendations

The number of delinquent recommendations issued by the Office of the Public Auditor soared 18 percent to 181 in 1999 from the previous year's 153, indicating several government agencies' apparent neglect in taking prompt action to address financial loopholes. The finance department topped the Public Auditor's list of CNMI government agencies that are unable to act on the several recommendations it issued last year. DOF failed to take action on at least 50 recommendations issued by the OPA in its 18 audit investigation reports for the agency in 1999, while the Department of Public Safety failed to address 11 loopholes identified by the Public Auditor in its report.

Condition in garment industry has improved—OSHA

With the extensive reforms carried out by garment manufacturers on the island on health and safety issues, Saipan may well become a model for all the garment factories in the world, according to a federal official. Frank Strasheim, administrator for Region IX of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, commended garment manufacturers for working cooperatively with OSHA in implementing changes and willingness to have their factories inspected. "We think that garment factories have come a long way. What I can see is the prospect of the garment industry in Saipan not only doing much better on workers' safety but become a worldwide model for the garment industries everywhere," said Mr. Strasheim.

MAY 4, 2001

Diversification may impact environment

With all indications pointing to expanding the economic base of the Northern Marianas, government officials and business sector leaders are warned that precautionary steps should be taken to minimize the impacts diversification may have in the environment. Recommendations from a special government body created specifically to revitalize the Commonwealth's ailing economy are expected to include safety nets or measures that would protect and preserve the islands' pristine environment. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has consistently said that protection and preservation of the Commonwealth's fragile eco-system and natural resources will remain a top priority in the development of new industries.

Residents told to prepare for dry season

With the dry season beginning two months sooner than expected because of the continuing El Nino phenomenon, the Commonwealth Utilities Commission has advised the public to start preparing for a shortage of water and to take the necessary steps to conserve the valuable resource. CUC Special Advisor for Corporate Communication Pamela Mathis said the utility's water supply is now two-thirds down from its desirable level. The shortage has been mitigated by the lack of rainfall in the months of March and April. If residents are already feeling the pinch of waterless and probably even "bathless" days due to dry faucets, CUC says it would even get worse. The utility predicts water shortage to become even more pronounced once the days get deeper into the months of June and July.

Teachers, We Thank You!

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK
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Thank you for teaching me everything I'll need,
Teaching me to calculate and speak,
Teaching me to stop being so weak:
Teaching me to think and write and read.
'Cause there isn't much I'll learn alone,
and my mind is hungry for your food,
the food for thought that makes us good
and without which we're dry as stone.
Teach me to be just like yourself,
The person I so much admire,
The one whose intellectual fire
I wish I'll have one day myself.
Take a seat and start to teach,
Let me thus the wonders see
Of this world where I will be
A bit better thanks to each
Of the teachers that I had,
and thanks to yourself, the one
who's made me sure that I can,
that in fact, I'm not that bad
as a student. I'll succeed.
You're the one who made me start
To realize that it's an art
To develop the great seed
That you planted in my young brain.
I'll water that seed all the time
With your great teaching, and with time
You'll see your efforts were not in vain.

Thank you from Your Students

Together with our *students,*
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we would like to take the time to *Thank* all of our *Teachers.*

"Students First"

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Biden's foot-in-mouth disease

President Obama sought to assure a nervous nation Wednesday night that the H1N1 virus, the new strain of swine flu racing around the world, is "cause for deep concern but not panic." His calming words were trampled the next morning by Vice President Joe Biden.

In an interview on NBC's "Today" show, host Matt Lauer asked Mr. Biden, "If a member of your family came to you ... and said, `Look, I want to go on a commercial airliner to Mexico and back within the next week,' would you think it's a good idea?" The vice president replied, "I would tell members of my family—and I have—I wouldn't go anywhere in confined places now. ... It's not that it's going to Mexico. It's (that) you're in a confined aircraft. When one person sneezes, it goes all the way through the aircraft. That's me." He added, "So, from my perspective, what it relates to is mitigation. If you're out in the middle of a field when someone sneezes, that's one thing. If you're in a closed aircraft or closed container or closed car or closed classroom, it's a different thing."

No doubt America's airlines are at the front of the line of those eager to send the vice president back to his work on high-speed rail service or nuclear nonproliferation or whatever he does when not issuing misguided public health advice. How misguided could be measured by the speed with which the White House issued a clarification. The common-sense course of action was reiterated by Obama at his news conference. Cover your cough or sneeze. Wash your hands frequently. And if you are sick, stay home. Same for your child. Biden's imprudent words could be taken as a green light for everyone to abandon the Metro, pull children out of school and avoid travel.

For reasons still unknown, the United States is not yet being affected as severely as Mexico. There have been more than 150 H1N1-related deaths there. Symptoms have been diagnosed in more than 2,500 people, and more than 1,300 of those have been hospitalized. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Thursday that the numbers in the United States stood at 109 laboratory-confirmed cases, with one death in Texas, that of a child who had traveled from Mexico to visit family. There were eight possible cases in Maryland but none in Washington.

Richard Besser, acting director of the CDC offered a useful reminder when he said that the flu is an annual occurrence. "We see it every season, every winter," he said. "Unfortunately, I do expect to see more deaths." But, adding much-needed context, Besser pointed out that there are "on average, 36,000 deaths from seasonal flu." The advice that we offered on Monday and that most Obama administration officials have correctly insisted still stands: Don't panic.

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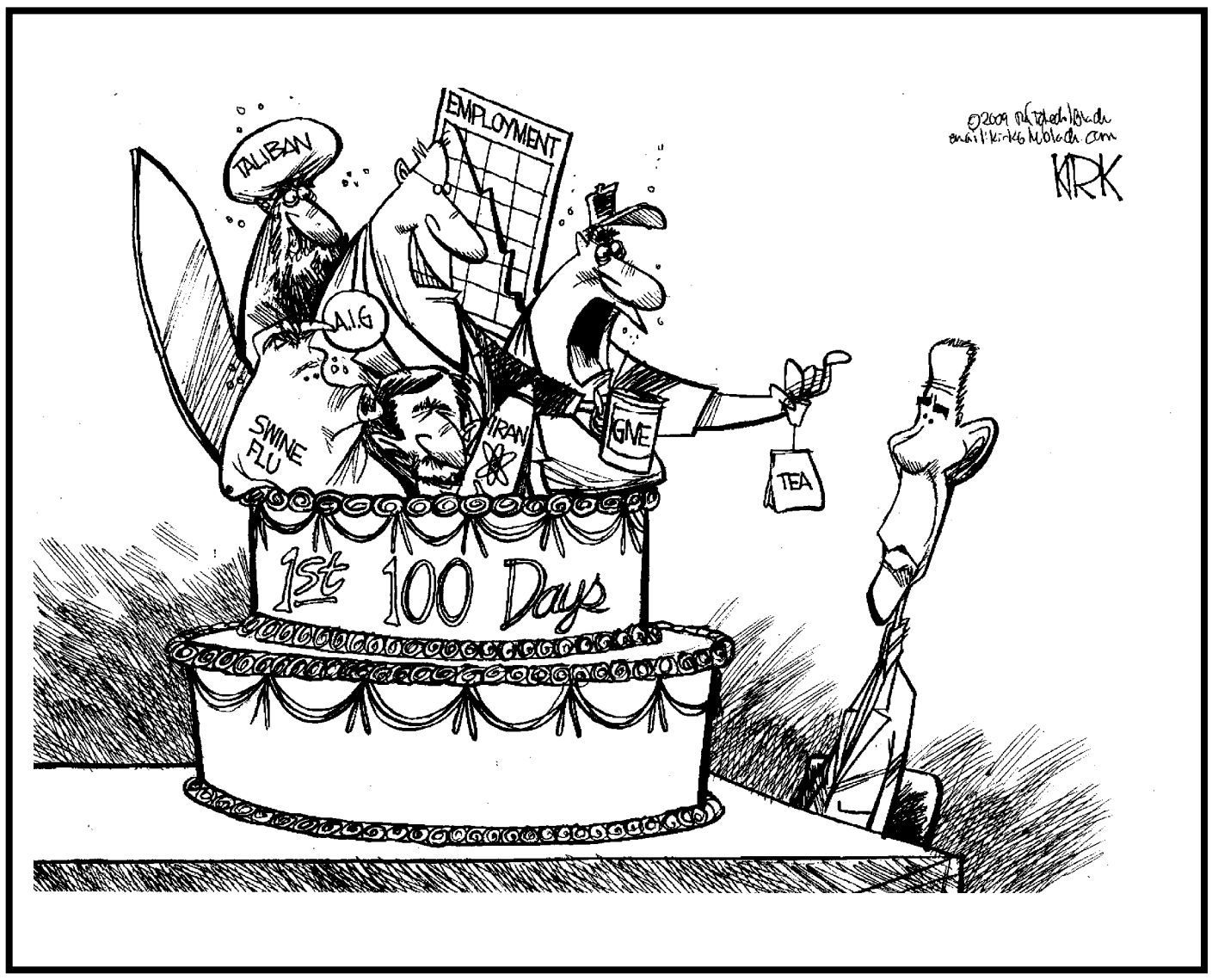

The first 100 days

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

The media frenzy last week, in addition to the H1N1 scare, Supreme Court Justice Souter's announced resignation from the bench after the current court and Pennsylvania Sen. Arlen Specter's political specter, was Obama's first 100 days in the White House.

A pundit asks: "What can a president do in 100 days?" "Not much, really," he answers his own query. The president establishes a mood, sets a tone, air signals about how both state and nation are envisioned. Mr. Obama, by all accounts, has done an excellent job at shifting the core of our ground zero from fear of the alien and the foreigner, despair over the unfathomable mystery of human exigencies, to the audacity of hope in the midst of uncertainty and insecurity, and anticipatory celebration in the promised abundance of experienced chaos and the ever-familiar unknown.

If the scare tactics of the last eight years has been the tone that guided our daily consciousness, a new voice is in the air that does not reduce citizens to being wards of the State clinging to big daddy's protection, but calls forth citizens' participation in the affairs of the State and nation, and more importantly, in the creation of individual destinies.

Now we ask the reverse question: How have the people been in the last 100 days of the new Obama presidential dispensation in American life? First, we look at our physical sustenance and maintenance processes—the utilization of resources, production of goods and services, and the distribution of the same.

The key resource is, of course, fossil fuel. With the backdrop of the rhetoric of "peak oil" which that enlightened section of the oil industry has since come to recognize, the search for alternative renewable energy has emerged from the fringes into the mainstream. On the other hand, the influence of the military-industrial complex in guiding the existing global economic order remains clandestinely insidious and devious.

There has not been any shift in policy decisions, let alone change in strategies, so much so that even the allocation of resources on such military installations as Guam is couched in the rhetoric of protection of political freedoms rather than the demand to secure the interests and installations dependent on the strait of Malacca, as well as maintain a coercive threat to those who might be inclined to divest the American-managed multinational corporations of their capital investments in foreign markets. Gunboat diplomacy along the Chiang Jiang river is alive and well in American foreign policy!

The shock on profligate consumerism that is a consequence of the collapse of the financial sector has not dislodged production schemes off their insane supply-directed production patterns, and while the factory closures happening in China and other sourced-production-outlets of the Third World has brought considerable suffering to cheap captive labor, unionized labor in the United States clings to archaic dichotomies of class struggles and power contradictions as is happening in the auto industry, rather than view the economic enterprise as a consultative venture between capital formation and labor/management cooperation, if not forged partnership and/or shared corporate ownership. More importantly, if consumption designs as exemplified by American suburban malls is fueled by hyped marketing and sales through credit rather than savings, then the deep indebtedness to future earnings will continue and the enslavement of future generations will continue with the profligate spending of the current generation.

Resource development and production of consumption goods and services is minuscule in the total engagement of the population compared to the requirement of financial services. When the valuation of value proceeds at geometric proportion, the farmer and factory worker take a backseat way behind the financial wizards of our market management institutions. Prominent of the latter are the personnel of stock markets and banking institutions, which created the current financial crises that drove governments to initiate their economic stimulus packages, and has since been exposed to be nothing but glorified casinos where the odds are stacked in favor of the house.

The reported cost of the content of an 8-oz bottle of cola is less than a cent, but will be worth .35 cents when it leaves the warehouse, and twice that amount in dispensing machines. Do the math and we begin to understand why those dealing with finances in the distribution system overwhelmingly dominate the economic field.

The above is a feeble attempt to describe the tyranny of the economic over the political decision-making procedures (order, justice and welfare) and cultural (wisdom, style and symbols) development processes of the American empire whose present dominance over the economy of the globe is indisputable, though regrettably led by an autocracy of corporations at the expense of the common good of the awakening masses.

Obama's response on the economic issue was a stimulus package whose benefits were to accrue to the lowest denominator; in-

See THE FIRST on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Female justices make a difference

By CHRISTINA L. BOYD and LEE EPSTEIN
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—When Sandra Day O'Connor retired from the U.S. Supreme Court in 2005, national polls suggested that the public overwhelmingly supported replacing her with a female juror. O'Connor seemed to agree. "He's good in every way, except he's not a woman" is what she had to say about the nomination of John G. Roberts Jr.

Now, Justice David Souter is set to retire from the court, and President Obama is already facing similar pressure. Who might take Souter's place? We're already being introduced to Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Pamela Karlan—all very accomplished individuals who happen to possess the one qualification that many commentators and court-watchers seem to agree is the most important this time around: They are women.

Some of the pressure comes from those who believe that the membership of our courts should reflect the makeup of our society. More than half the U.S. population is female. Nearly one-third of all U.S. lawyers are women. Approximately 30 percent of the judges serving on the lower federal courts are women.

But a diverse Supreme Court isn't just about a bench that looks like America. This is about jurisprudence, too. In research that we conducted with our colleague Andrew Martin, we studied the votes of federal court of appeals judges in many areas of the law, from environmental cases to capital punishment and sex discrimination. For the most part, we found no difference in the voting patterns of male and female judges, except when it comes to sex discrimination cases. There, we found that female judges are approximately 10 percent more likely to rule in favor of the party bringing the discrimination claim. We also found that the presence of a female judge causes male judges to vote differently. When male and female judges serve together to decide a sex discrimination case, the male judges are nearly 15 percent more likely to rule in favor of the party alleging discrimination than when they sit with male judges only.

This holds true even after we account for judges' ideological leanings. If Obama is considering two fairly moderate people, one a woman and the other a man, we would expect the woman to cast more liberal votes in sex discrimination cases. The same would be true if the president were considering two very liberal candidates, again, one a man and one a woman.

The retirement of the liberal-leaning Souter may not give the president a chance to move the court significantly to the left. But it does let him make a different shift. If he does choose a woman to fill Souter's seat, he could have a major impact on an area of law that's important to many Americans—women and men alike.

Christina L. Boyd is a PhD candidate in political science at Washington University in St. Louis. Lee Epstein is a professor of law at Northwestern University.

Letters to the Editor

Chief tano's hoof-in-mouth disease

It is boggles the mind how chief tano, Gregorio Cruz Jr., employs his misperception of indigenous rights in an open field where he replicates King Kong's chest-pounding bit, declaring himself the messiah of Chamolinians. The saddest part of it all is the seeming realization that the issues are highly substantive and way above his head.

In brief, these issues, chief tano, require a think tank of fully read or educated people. I seriously doubt that you possess anything close to it, with some sense of common decency. Thus the lack of civility and inability to separate people from issues. Your angry paradigm says it all. Bradda, such undertaking requires sober and substantive analysis. And your grand immaturity isn't helping your cause either.

Perhaps chief tano is suffering from a hoof-in-mouth illness, an incurable disease, though rarely serious. But in his case, eh, it could be very serious given his obvious mindset, convinced he's captured the wisdom corner where everyone else is intellectually subservient. Eh, da kine hoof-in-mouth disease is also good comic relief for an act going stale at week's end, in dire need of dramatic punch. His vicious nature reminds me of a boring uncle who can't resist pinching the bottoms of all the comely nieces at a barbecue. Eh, I still want to discuss moral standards, yeah? Let' see that naughty uncle or cousin who hides behind the shield of indigenous rights.

There are issues under investigation relating to homesteads that I am not at liberty to discuss publicly given the impending investigation (nearing conclusion) and subsequent litigation. Let a competent court of law dispose of them based on their merits. This viewpoint is difficult conveying to chief tano given that it is way above his head. See, chief tano, you have to learn to respect the due process rights of others. It's a legal concept that you need to plow over in your reading classes at NMC. If you come to terms with it, please write us a composition demonstrating your understanding of it.

Funds for the emplacement of basic infrastructure is completely none of your business and please don't turn your ignorance into more comic material. You don't have to keep me giggling everyday, though it's cool to engage in it intermittently. Now, the Tinian homestead recipients are waiting for you to settle their score on your being a jack-of-all-trades, master-of-none. You may have to employ ablution to rid yourself of all the anger and special abilities at disseminating misinformation on public issues that really are way above your nimble mind.

Finally, chief tano, it would be interesting to see the results of your SAT score and grades in the various courses you're taking at NMC. It should be the final barometer to determining your level of comprehension in both reading and writing classes. Eh, the public has the right to know the academic performances of even teeny chief tano in his classes. I have to establish whether you have the intellectual wherewithal to discuss issues with congruity, clarity and depth. Not that you've careened into intellectual atrophy or deterioration of moral values because you have neither. But plain view of your grades (performance) ought to be a tale in itself. *Bien felis amigo!*

John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonno, Saipan

Applause for the Sunshine Project

On April 27, 2009, the *Saipan Tribune* published an article titled, "Nearly half of NMI govt agencies flunk OGA test." In this article, employees of the *Saipan Tribune* conducted a test survey to find out which CNMI government agencies will comply with the Open Government Act. I applaud their efforts made during this test and I am pleased with their findings.

According to the article, "of the 27 major government agencies tested, only 12 provided the document within 10 days allowed under the Act." The document to be obtained was the FY 2009 budget, and four agencies were able to provide it within hours, these agencies being the Northern Marianas College, the Governor's Office, the Commonwealth Development Authority, and the CNMI Judiciary. There were other agencies that provided the document within the required 10-day period. Good job, guys! The other agencies that flunked the test did not only flunk, but broke the law as well. The article also mentions what happened when the employees requested the document from the agencies that failed to provide it. They underwent questioning, were asked to provide a formal request letter, and were told that permission must be given before giving out any documents. Others were given the "runaround", going back and forth to different offices and coming back empty-handed. Public Law 8-41 does not require a person to give his/her name and affiliation before obtaining documents, although these questions were insisted on.

My question is: What is wrong with giving out documents? Our right to obtain them are protected by law, so what is the problem here? It seems to me that they are not aware of their wrongdoing or they just have their own reasons for not releasing documents. Do the agencies have something to hide? Are they afraid somehow? I see no harm in this. The people of the CNMI deserve to know what is going on within our government, and through the OGA we are able to participate in it. So participate everyone and take advantage of the OGA!

Rosanna Camacho
San Vicente, Saipan

The people's man!

I witnessed the confirmation hearing of Eloy Inos as the choice appointee of Gov. Benigno Fitial to be his Lt. Governor and I am overwhelmed by the immense support that came from the community for his confirmation. It was also mentioned for the record that, for the first time ever, politicians crossed party lines to voice their strong support for Inos. Congratulation Lt. Governor Inos on your confirmation! May the Lord bless you richly in your new endeavor.

Now we have the best combination occupying the CNMI's highest positions: Governor Fitial, who is good with numbers, and Lt. Governor Inos, who is also very smart in numbers. The two have a proven track record of being in accord, of being always in agreement for the betterment of the entire CNMI. These two fine people are indeed worthy of my vote to protect my and my children's future.

I would like to thank the Senate for finally putting my dream in place by answering my call of "who would be our next lieutenant governor?" My blessing is upon Eloy, that he will support the governor in discharging all their duties to protect the future of the CNMI!

Alexandro Sablan
Dandan, Saipan

Failing a test?

On April 27, 2009, *Saipan Tribune* ran an article stating that nearly half of CNMI government agencies flunked an Open Government Act test. The agency that gave their document right away was Northern Marianas College, but the first to flunk was the Public School System. I thought that the first to flunk would be the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. In addition, the article states that "only 12 agencies gave the document within 10 days and three took longer than 10 days but only one asked for an extension and two had excuses for their delays." This tells me that the agencies that gave their documents within 10 days knew what the law was and the penalties if not followed, and the fact that only half of the agencies know what they are doing and what the law says is no surprise to me. I think that the agencies that gave their documents late did not care about what the law has to say.

The *Saipan Tribune*'s opinion meter asked, "On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how would you rate the CNMI government's compliance with the open government?" I gave a rating of 2 because of the small number of responsible agencies that gave their documents within 10 days and passed the test.

The CNMI government is clearly not an open government because there are so many secrets that go around it. A strong, good government is characterized by an open government, and when there is an open government there is clearly citizen participation. Sadly, we do not have this in our CNMI government.

Mae Angelie Ito
Koblerville, Saipan

THE FIRST

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stead, bailout corporations started meeting first the organizations' requirements for its management personnel and stockholders so that taxpayers' monies anomalously is shoring up the welfare of the privileged class before benefits accrue to the consuming class and the general public.

Where Obama's first steps is vulnerable to authentic criticism, it is in the economic stimulus package, not because his administration is duplicitous but rather, the bureaucratic agencies that were mandated to design the package serve the tentacles of a top-down economic structure where the trickle down of benefits is supposed to come down from the capital investments on the production of goods and services marketed to the cajoled and compliant paying customer. Unfortunately, Obama's naiveté will not be judged by the parameters of communal forgiveness on inexperience but by the standards of financial accountability and justification of the bottom line.

We decry the shenanigans of Madoff but we are silent when our credit cards and loans slap a 28 percent interest rate on our indebtedness. Our cultural pride is hurt when we have to explain the actions of a Lt. Governor caught with his fingers in the public till, but we do not flinch an eye on the numerous non-English proficient licensed motor vehicle drivers who evidently paid for the privileged of a license.

It is in broadening the political process, and shifting cultural consciousness that Obama is making a noticeable headway, and the 60 percent approval rating, at least, indicates that a majority of us are curious, if not responsive, to the changes brought about in the last 100 days.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Rain	▲85	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲83	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼79

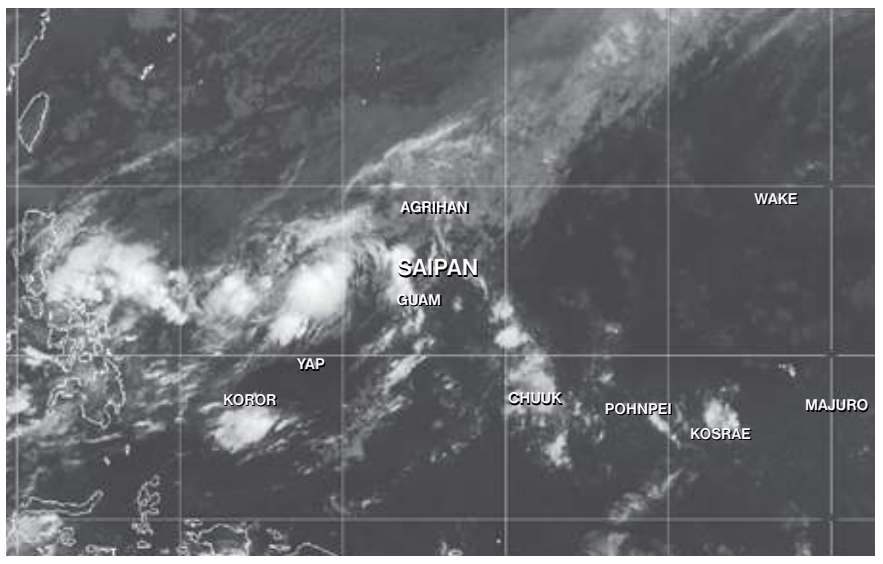
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲60	▼55
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼57
Hong Kong	Showers	▲88	▼74
Honolulu	Sunny	▲83	▼71
London	Cloudy	▲59	▼45
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼56
Manila	Rain	▲84	▼78
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼49
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼73
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲61	▼52
Osaka	Cloudy	▲69	▼58
Paris	Cloudy	▲59	▼45
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼59
Rome	Sunny	▲71	▼53
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲62	▼49
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲67	▼53
Seoul	Sunny	▲73	▼51
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲69	▼57
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲66	▼56

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:10 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
10:33 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
3:55 PM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:13 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical storm Kujira is centered near the Philippines at 14N125E and triggering scattered thunderstorms west of 133E between 14N and 17N. For more detailed information, see JTWC bulletins under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. A weak circulation northwest of Guam is at 17N140E with a trough southward to near Yap at 8N141E. A shear line extends northeastward from 18N145E to 23N155E to beyond 25N at 162E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from across the Northern Marianas to Yap and Palau are in an area from 7N132E to 19N142E to 20N154E to 7N141E back to 7N132E. Extensive clouds and scattered showers are within 200 miles of a line from 20N150E to 25N160E. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms around Chuuk State in an area from 9N150E to 6N157E to 2N150E back to 9N150E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands in an area between the equator and 8N from 170E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Tuesday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM
Wednesday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM
Thursday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:19 PM	2:06 AM
Tuesday	3:12 PM	2:45 AM
Wednesday	4:04 PM	3:24 AM
Thursday	4:56 PM	4:03 AM
Friday	5:50 PM	4:43 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily
Guam-Narita			
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6
Guam-Osaka			
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily
Guam-Nagoya			
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Incheon			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7
Guam-Palau			
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5
Palau-Manila			
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7
Narita-Manila			
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Narita-Guam			
NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7
Osaka-Guam			
NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Nagoya-Guam			
NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
Incheon-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Palau-Guam			
CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2
CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6
Manila-Palau			
CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Manila-Nagoya			
NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily
Hongkong-Incheon			
OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily
OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6
OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily
Manila-Narita			
NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Fiji defiant after ouster from Pacific Islands bloc

SUVA, Fiji (AP)—Military-ruled Fiji remained defiant Saturday after its historic suspension from the 16-nation Pacific Islands Forum, rejecting the "punitive action" for delayed election and warning it won't be deterred from its chosen path even by "adversity."

The coup-plagued nation was suspended from the regional bloc Saturday for what the forum called its rejection of democracy, freedom and human rights.

The suspension, the first in the forum's 37-year history, bars Fiji's leader, ministers and officials from taking part in any meetings or events, and cuts Fiji out of development funding until a democratic government is restored.

Chairman Toke Talagi, premier of the micro-state of Niue, said Fiji's rejection of fundamental principles like "the full observance of democratic values" and the defense and promotion of human rights violations had given the forum no alternative.

But Fiji Attorney General Aiyaz Sayed Khaiyum said the military government "shall not be deterred from any of its objectives even in the face of adversity, created by some."

"The statement ... falsely refers to so-called breaches of basic human rights, democracy and freedom under a military regime," Sayed Khaiyum said in a statement. He did not elaborate.

He accused regional powers Australia and New Zealand of using their influence to force its suspension because of their "political agendas" and rejected the demand that Fiji hold elections within eight months.

In this file photo taken Dec. 6, 2006, Fijian military Commodore Frank Bainimarama speaks at a ceremony at the main military barracks in Suva.

AP

"The untenable proposition that elections should be held at any cost immediately, even under a flawed system, is not only patronizing but demonstrates a lack of commitment to true democracy and sustainable parliamentary representation," he said.

On Friday, Fiji's military ruler, Commodore Frank Bainimarama, defied international pressure to announce elections, confirming that he would not hold them for five years.

That set the stage for his country's ouster from the forum, which had given Fiji until Friday to announce elections for 2009 or be suspended from the group.

Bainimarama ousted the ethnic Fijian-dominated government in a 2006 coup and installed himself as prime minister. He has vowed to rewrite the constitution and electoral laws to remove what he says is discrimination against the country's large ethnic Indian minority before holding elections. Critics say he shows little sign of being willing to give up power.

Fiji President Ratu Josefa Iloilo announced in early April that elections would be delayed until 2014. He also suspended the national constitution and fired judges who had declared the military government illegal.

Emergency laws were also imposed on the media to curb expressions of dissent, which Bainimarama said would be extended when they expire later this month.

The military leader said that within two weeks he would announce a five-year timetable for reforms leading to elections.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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REVISED NOTICE TO THE BANKS/LENDING INSTITUTIONS

Solicitation for Listing and Purchase of Bank-Owned Abandoned and/or Foreclosed Homes/Residential Properties with Marketable Title (Title Marketability to be solely determined by NMHC).

(This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds).

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) through its Board of Directors, is seeking to purchase five properties with $364,162 of bank-owned Abandoned and/or Foreclosed Homes/Residential Properties with Marketable Title (title marketability to be solely determined by NMHC) located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands—the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Preference will be given to the banks/lending institutions, who upon NMHC's acquisition and rehabilitation of properties, willing to finance credit-worthy borrowers purchasing the property from NMHC.

According to HUD's definition, a home is "abandoned" when mortgage or tax foreclosure proceedings have been initiated for that property, no mortgage or tax payments have been made by the property owner for at least 90 days AND the property has been vacant for at least 90 days. Moreover, a property has been "foreclosed upon" at the point that, under state or local law, the mortgage or tax foreclosure is complete. HUD will generally not consider a foreclosure to be complete until after the title for the property has been transferred from the former homeowner under some type foreclosure proceeding or transfer in lieu of foreclosure, in accordance with state or local law.

NMHC will be using funds allocated through the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). The NSP will provide emergency assistance to state and local governments to acquire and redevelop foreclosed properties that might otherwise become sources of abandonment and blight within their communities. The NSP provides grants to every state and certain local communities to purchase foreclosed or abandoned homes and to rehabilitate, resell, or redevelop these homes in order to stabilize neighborhoods and stem the decline of home values of neighboring homes. The program is authorized under Title III of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008. (http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/communitydevelopment/programs/neighborhoodspg/)

- NMHC is seeking for a listing and purchase(s) from the bank as to how many abandoned and/or foreclosed homes/residential properties they are able to sell for $364,162.
- NMHC will acquire the bank-owned abandoned and/or foreclosed homes/residential properties at 70% of its appraised value.
- As part of the transaction, it is NMHC's desire to coordinate with the banks, upon NMHC's completed rehabilitation of the properties, to resell to low/moderate/middle income families as defined by HUD's 2009 Adjusted Home Income Limits.
- Pursuant to NSP requirements, NMHC will ensure that 25%, or $91,040.00, of the total Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds ($364,162.00) be made available to qualified borrowers with an income less than 50% of area median income in order to finance individuals whose income is between 50%-120% of area median income.

For the properties the banks propose to sell to NMHC, the bank shall include the following information:

- o Appraisal value of bank-owned foreclosed and/or abandoned homes/residential properties. (Appraisal report must be within 6 months of acquisition by NMHC)
- o Location (by village) of bank-owned foreclosed and/or abandoned homes/residential properties
- o Detailed description of bank-owned foreclosed and/or abandoned homes/residential properties, including photographs of the homes/residential properties
- o Date the foreclosed/abandoned home/residential property was built
- o Date of the foreclosure
- o Principal amount owed for the foreclosed/abandoned home or residential property
- o Compounded interest owed until the date the bank discontinued charging interest

- The listing provided by the bank must adhere to the following format:
  - o Font style: Times New Roman, 12 point font, black color ink
  - o Heading: Saipan, Tinian, and Rota (islands)
  - o Subheadings: Villages, in alphabetical order

Interested banks/lending institutions must bring the complete listing to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, on Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. The NMHC will be conducting a meeting with the banks at the aforementioned time and date to address any questions and concerns. Details of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program will also be provided at the meeting.

Preference will be given to the banks/lending institutions, who upon NMHC's acquisition and rehabilitation of properties, willing to finance credit-worthy borrowers purchasing the property from NMHC.

/s/
JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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NOTICE OF CLOSURE

Monday, May 04, 2009 (First Notice); Monday, May 11, 2009 (Second Notice)

Claim of the appeals listed below has been adjudicated and closed by the Department of Labor. In each case, this is a final agency action. All claims, including all claims for money damages, and all claims for eligibility for transfer, have been either adjudicated or dismissed. Any appellant or appellee listed below who has not been served personally with the Secretary's order adjudicating or dismissing case is now, as of the date of second publication of this notice, served with the order. A person served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the Secretary's order from the Executive Secretary. A person whose claim has been dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office has fifteen (15) days from the date of second notice in which to appeal the order. This publication does not affect any prior order served personally or by mail on any person.

Any appellant or appellee who has a claim covered by or a part of any of these cases that has not been adjudicated or included in a final order of the Secretary should report to the Executive Secretary at the Department of Labor, second floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio on or before May 25, 2009 with the necessary documentation with respect to the claim.

Secretary's Appeal No.	Case No.	Appellants	Appellees
SA 2007-043	LC 98-402	American Kai Hua Corporation	Zheng, Feng Rong and Zhang, Zhanshan
SA 2007-050	LC 98-402	American Kai Hua Corporation	Zhang, Zhan Shan
SA 2007-062	LC 04-437	American Sai Green Corporation	Wen, Zhen Wong
SA 2007-019	LC 01-172	Crystal, Star Corporation	Liu, Geng Rong and Zhang, Jia Xian
SA 2007-058	LC 04-264	In Sook Heo	Jeon Company Inc.
SA 2007-044	LC 04-178	Michigan Inc.	Wang, Chen Tong
SA 2008-034	LC 07-334	Soleman	Zhu, Qing Zhen
SA 2008-010	CAC 05-091-04	Bautista, Alexander U.	All Around Services Inc.
SA 2007-79	LC 07-097	Caballero, Emily G.	Camacho, Crystal
SA 2006-020	DC 06-325,326,327 (Consolidated)	Cabrera, Edward C. and Hua Bofu, Bao Yuhua and Wang Yanni	Director of Labor
SA 2007-116	LC 06-12	Cruz, Danilo Y.	GTS Security Inc.
SA 2006-33	LC 06-131	Feng, Jianming	American Sai Green Corporation
SA 2006-001	DC 06-065	Glimpse of Guam Inc., James Ignacio	Director of Labor
SA 2007-033	LC 04-508	Hoque, Namzul	Marianas Hotel Services Limited
SA 2007-104	CAC 03-052-09	Hu, Yan Ping	Mirage Saipan Inc.
SA 2007-60	LC 99-075	Li, Quian	Trans-Asia Garment Mfg., Corporation
SA 2007-021	LC 02-156	Liu, Jiangtao	Jin Apparel Inc.
SA 2007-012	LC 03-032	Ming Li Corporation	Yi, Mingxu
SA 2007-013	LC 07-279	Neo Fashion Inc., and Marianas Insurance Company Limited	Zhao, Chun
SA 2006-039	CAC 04-025-05	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation and Sun Qiao Lan	Director of Labor
SA 2007-102	CAC 04-016-03	Torculas, Catherine A.	Director of Labor
SA 2007-035	LC 04-410	United International Corporation	Ye, Jiamin
SA 2007-053	LC 04-607	United International Corporation	Li, Baofang
SA 2007-71	LC 07-168	Wang, Ju	Sheng Rong Dev., Corporation
SA 2007-32	LC 07-34 and CAC 07-086-08	Yan, Haibo	Dela Rosa, Mary M. and Joseph
SA 2007-024	LC 04-698	Yan, Luo	American Langente Corporation
SA 2007-68	LC 07-008	Gu, Xeutian	Jing Yang Corporation, et.al.
SA 2007-097	CAC 99-194-05	Valerie Joy B. Mapalo	Hole In The Wall and Misamis Spn Inc.
SA 2007-83	LC 07-169	Zhang, Xiuyun	Sheng Rong Dev., Corporation
SA 2007-003	DC 06-365	Yu, Wei	Director of Labor

Landmark study shows how mercury gets to N. Pacific

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A new landmark study published Friday documents for the first time the process in which increased mercury emissions from human sources across the globe, and in particular from Asia, make their way into the North Pacific Ocean and as a result contaminate tuna and other seafood. Because much of the mercury that enters the North Pacific comes from the atmosphere, scientists have predicted an additional 50 percent increase in mercury in the Pacific by 2050 if mercury emission rates continue as projected.

ON THE NET
http://toxics.usgs.gov/investigations/mercury.html

"This unprecedented USGS study is critically important to the health and safety of the American people and our wildlife because it helps us understand the relationship between atmospheric emissions of mercury and concentrations of mercury in marine fish," said Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. "We have always known that mercury can pose a risk, now we need to reduce the mercury emissions so that we can reduce the ocean mercury levels."

"This study gives us a better understanding of how dangerous levels of mercury move into our air, our water, and the food we eat, and shines new light on a major health threat to Americans and people all across the world," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "With this information in hand, plus our own mercury efforts, we have an even greater opportunity to continue working with our international partners to significantly cut mercury pollution in the years ahead and protect the health of millions of people."

Water sampling cited in the study shows that mercury levels in 2006 were approximately 30 percent higher than those measured in the mid-1990s. This study documents for the first time the formation of methylmercury in the North Pacific Ocean. It shows that methylmercury is produced in mid-depth ocean waters by processes linked to the "ocean rain." Algae, which are produced in sunlit waters near the surface, die quickly and "rain" downward to greater water depths. At depth, the settling algae are decomposed by bacteria and the interaction of this decomposition process in the presence of mercury results in the formation of methylmercury. Many steps up the food chain later, predators like tuna receive methylmercury from the fish they consume.

One unexpected finding from this study is the significance of long-range transport of mercury within the ocean that originates in the western Pacific Ocean, off the coast of Asia.

"Mercury researchers typically look skyward to find a mercury source from the atmosphere due to emissions from land-based combustion facilities. In this study, however, the pathway of the mercury was a little different. Instead, it appears the recent mercury enrichment of the sampled Pacific Ocean waters is caused by emissions originating from fallout near the Asian coasts. The mercury-enriched waters then enter a long-range eastward transport by large ocean circulation currents," said USGS scientist and coauthor David Krabbenhoft.

Scientists sampled Pacific Ocean water from 16 different sites between Honolulu, Hawaii and Kodiak, Alaska. In addition, the scientists constructed a computer simulation that links atmospheric emissions, transport and deposition of mercury, and an ocean circulation model.

In the United States, about 40 percent of all human exposure to mercury is from tuna harvested in the Pacific Ocean, according to Elsie Sunderland, a coauthor of the study. Methylmercury is a highly toxic form of mercury that rapidly accumulates in the food chain to levels that can cause serious health concerns for those who consume the seafood. Pregnant women who consume mercury can pass on life-long developmental effects to their children. That is why in 2004 EPA and FDA issued the landmark Joint Guidance on the Consumption of Fish specifically targeted towards pregnant women and nursing mothers. Previous studies show that 75 percent of human exposure worldwide to mercury is from the consumption of marine fish and shellfish.

Scientists have known for some time that mercury deposited from the atmosphere to freshwater ecosystems can be transformed (methylated) into methylmercury, but identifying the analogous cycles in marine systems has remained elusive. As a result of this study we now know more about how the process which leads to the transformation of mercury into methylmercury.

The paper, "Mercury sources, distribution and bioavailability in the North Pacific Ocean--Insights from data and models and information on other USGS mercury research, is available online at http://toxics.usgs.gov/investigations/mercury.html.

The study appeared Friday in Global Biogeochemical Cycles, which is published by the American Geophysical Union. ***(DOI)***

Guam sailors train with visiting French navy

SANTA RITA, Guam—The French frigate *Vendemiaire* of the French Marine Nationale arrived at U.S. Naval Base Guam May 1 for a port visit and training.

Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron 7 sailors conducted close quarters training with Vendemiaire Sailors May 1. The purpose of the training was to increase coordination, communication, cooperation between the U.S. and an allied nation. The training also provided an opportunity for both the U.S. and French forces to exercise their teams' security skills.

Frigate *Vendemiaire* was built in Saint-Nazaire shipyards in France in 1993 and is homeported in Noumea, New Caledonia. *Vendemiaire* is a light monitoring frigate of the French navy and is also the fifth ship of her class. The ship is used for various duties, including humanitarian aid, diplomacy, and naval law enforcement.

MSRON-7, which was commissioned in May 2004, provides rapidly deployable point defense personnel and assets for force protection/anti-terrorism operations in support of the numbered Fleet Commanders. ***(PR)***

Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Matthew Uhl, right, of Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron 7, is "secured" by French security forces of the visiting frigate *Vendemiaire* (F734) during an exercise simulating vessel boarding, search and seizure in Barrigada May 1.

JESSE LEON GUERRERO, JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JESSE LEON GUERRERO

The French frigate *Vendemiaire* makes a port visit at U.S. Naval Base Guam May 1. Security forces serving aboard the ship will conduct training with Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron 7 while the ship is on island for several days.

Bomb disposal unit changes command

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 held a change of command ceremony at the command's compound on U.S. Naval Base Guam April 28.

During the ceremony, which is the official passing of responsibility, authority, and accountability of command from one officer to another, Cmdr. Robert Debuse relieved Cmdr. Robert Baughman.

Baughman led EODMU-5 for the last two years. Baughman is leaving the island to be the deputy commander for Task Force Troy in Iraq. Task Force Troy is a joint counter improvised explosive device task force. At the change of command, Baughman took the opportunity to thank the men and women of EODMU-5.

"You need to take a step back and look at everything we've accomplished," Baughman said. "You're the most hardworking group of Sailors I've worked with."

Debuse said he is ecstatic to take the helm of a great command forged by Baughman's leadership and commitment.

"[Cmdr.] Baughman is a great leader, a great friend and he's done a wonderful job…of creating a cohesive and well-trained command," Debuse said. "I can't ask for a better situation to be stepping into."

The mission of EODMU-5, a forward-deployed mobile command, is to provide explosive ordnance disposal detachments throughout the Commander, Seventh Fleet area of responsibility to enable access for fleet, mine countermeasures, joint expeditionary and special operations forces. ***(PR)***

OYAOL NGIRAIRIKL, JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Cmdr. Robert Debuse greets the sailors of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 during a change of command ceremony held at the command's compound on U.S. Naval Base Guam April 28. Debuse relieved the outgoing commanding officer, Cmdr. Robert Baughman, who led the EOD command for the last two years. Baughman is leaving the island to be the deputy commander for Task Force Troy in Iraq. Task Force Troy is a joint counter improvised explosive device task force. EODMU-5 provides explosive ordnance disposal, mine countermeasures, diving and demolition support of the U.S. Pacific Command, specifically the U.S. Seventh Fleet and Special Operations Command Pacific.

Island Snapshots

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
From left, Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja Student Council president Baltazar Mendiola, Cape Air Rota general manager Calista Pendergrass, and ESFDB DARE Student Body president Van Cing pose for a picture after presenting the airline company an appreciation certificate for their support to Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja and PRTI DARE-GUTS program. Not in photo ESFDB board president and PRTI supervisor Edward Maratita Jr.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INOS FAMILY
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, seated center, and newly sworn Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, seated right, are in a joyful mood as first lady Josie Fitial, seated left, and members of Inos' family gather for a picture after the swearing in ceremony on Capital Hill on Friday. Inos, the CNMI's first non-elected lieutenant governor, replaced Timothy P. Villagomez who resigned after he was found guilty of corruption charges.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

PRESS CONFERENCE
U.S. Attorney Leonardo Rapadas stresses a point as Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley listens during a presentation held April 25, 2009, shortly after a federal jury handed down a guilty verdict against former Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez, James Santos, and Joaquina Santos.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT
Belated happy birthday to Jose Litulumar Kaipat aka Khadaffy in Whidbey Island Oak Harbor Washington, who celebrated his birthday yesterday, April 30. May you have many more birthdays to come. From the family further north.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NURSING CLUB
The Northern Marianas College's Nursing Club offered free blood pressure and blood sugar checks at the NMC booth during Saturday's Flame Tree Arts Festival. Lovelle D'Lonsod, shown in the photo, checks the blood pressure of a Flame Tree Festival participant.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HOUSE SPEAKERS
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, second from left, himself a former House of Representatives speaker, poses with other former House speakers after the Senate confirmed Eloy Inos as the first non-elected lieutenant governor in the CNMI last Friday.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

MAYORS' CONFERENCE PREPS
Municipal officials met April 28 with officials from the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan to make final arrangements for the 2nd Annual Pacific Mayors' Conference, which will be held in Saipan and Tinian from May 14 to 17. At the meeting at Fiesta were, from left, B.K. Park, Fiesta vice president and general manager; Kazuaki Nishida, Fiesta director of sales and marketing; Paul M. McDonald, president of the Association of Pacific Island Local Governments and mayor of Agana Heights, Guam; Das Krishnan, food and beverage manager at Fiesta; and Antonia M. Tudela, chairwoman of the Saipan Municipal Council and head of the steering committee for the mayors' conference.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SENATE PRESIDENTS
Currents Senate President Pete Reyes, second from right, poses for a picture with other former Senate presidents after the upper chamber confirmed Eloy Inos' appointment as the first non-elected lieutenant governor in the CNMI.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

SILVER STAR DAY
Members of the U.S. Army Reserve local Company Battalion Unit and spouses, a U.S. Navy representative, and prospective military enlisters flank Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela after he signed a mayoral proclamation last Saturday, May 2, 2009, designating this day as Silver Star Banner Day in the Municipality of Saipan to remember the men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces who have been wounded in action. Tudela presented the Silver Star Banner and an appreciation plaque from the Silver Star Banner Families of America to the local U.S. Army Reserve officers. Spec. Tanya Songsong received the plaque and Maj. Gregorio M. Sablan received the banner to be displayed at their company facilities in Puerto Rico.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

A day in the recession

By SHARON COHEN
AP NATIONAL WRITER

AP

In this photo taken Wednesday, April 1, 2009, Best Value Jewelry Pawn co-manager Greg Childress shows some jewelry to customer Denise Torgersen, 16, at the store in Fort Pierce, Fla.

It's a rainy spring morning and Tamara Ogier plants herself at a table in a Spartan room in the Atlanta federal courthouse, computer and tape recorder at hand, ready to hear another day's stories of financial ruin.

Couples facing foreclosure. Down-and-out real estate agents. Merchants who've shut their doors. Some clutch folders, some couples hold on to each other as they sit on pew-like benches, waiting to tell the court-appointed bankruptcy trustee how they ended up deep in debt.

"I understand the assumption that we're the guys in the black hats," Ogier says, but "there are a lot of times when I'm actually able to do a lot of good."

It's a sunny morning 745 miles away, as Jerry Miller tools along Iowa's back roads, grumbling about folks who can't manage their money. He has just one credit card. He has no debts, but at almost 75, he feels he needs to keep working just to keep pace. He wonders, too, if he'll have to sacrifice for other people's mistakes.

"I can't believe because they got themselves in this situation, it's falling on us to pay it back," he says, heading to the first pharmacy where he'll make deliveries on this day. "Lord, you're going to set a college kid loose with a credit card? Buy a house that costs ten times your salary?"

He punctuates his disapproval with his favorite expression: Pfffffft.

It's morning in America—but it's not a good morning.

The nation is suffering in a deep recession, there's no denying that: Unemployment is at its highest level in more than 25 years. The auto industry is on the skids. Foreclosure and for-sale signs are as common in some communities as street lights.

And more bleak days seem to be ahead.

Many private economists expect the monthly jobless rate will climb to 10 percent by the end of the year—it already has surpassed that level in states such as Michigan, South Carolina and Rhode Island.

The bankruptcy rate is rising, too. Nearly 1.2 million debtors filed for bankruptcy in a year period ending in April, according to federal court records collected and analyzed by The Associated Press. In March, nearly 131,000 sought bankruptcy protection—an increase of 46 percent over a year earlier.

Those are the numbers. Then there are the people.

This is the story of one day, and how Americans spent those hours in the shadow of economic distress, from worried debtors in a Georgia courthouse to a prospective home buyer in Michigan, from a worker in the Rhode Island food pantry to an Arizona contractor struggling to find jobs.

On this April day, no one person typifies hard times: In California, it's a homeless Army Reservist who joined up when he couldn't find work and sleeps in his 17-year-old car. In Florida, it's a Jaguar-driving pawn shop customer who sells DVDs for gas money. In South Carolina, it's an unemployed factory worker who finds comfort in prayer.

And in Greenwich, Conn., home to hedge fund billionaires, it's David Rabin, who lost his $100,000 job last October as a senior vice president for a small financial services firm. He spends part of his morning in his basement, job hunting.

In better times, Rabin would be preparing for his annual spring golfing trip with three buddies at his condo in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Instead, the 48-year-old Rabin, wearing jeans, a blue hockey sweat shirt and white sneakers, is poring over Monster.com and other online job boards. He sends out 10 resumes a day, but has had few nibbles in six months.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

First quarter shows hint of recovery

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—First-quarter earnings so far from across the market are coming in better than expected - largely as a result of a very low bar. More than half the companies in the S&P 500 have reported their first-quarter results. Of those, 65 percent beat analyst expectations. But overall, results were still down roughly 30 percent from a year ago. "It's bad - but it's not as bad as we thought," said Bob Doll, global chief investment officer for equities at investment manager BlackRock. The quarterly results hint at signs of recovery, but the picture remains very murky. Some retailers, who are the litmus test of consumer spending, say the worst in their earnings reports may be over but only due to tighter inventories, job cuts and store closures.

Buffett says government is doing the right things

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Billionaire Warren Buffett spent Saturday praising the decisions U.S. officials made to right the economy in the midst of a "financial hurricane" and defending the ones he made to help his company navigate the storm. The state of the economy and Berkshire Hathaway Inc.'s recent performance were among the first things addressed at the shareholders' meeting. Roughly 35,000 people packed an arena and overflow rooms to listen to Buffett and Berkshire Vice Chairman Charlie Munger answer questions for more than five hours. "Overall, I commend the actions that were taken," Buffett said. But he said no one should expect perfection because the economy experienced a "financial hurricane."

Chrysler expected to sell assets to Fiat

NEW YORK (AP)—Chrysler LLC is expected to file a motion Saturday to sell substantially all of its assets to Italian automaker Fiat Group SpA, but the ailing automaker must still deal with creditors who refused to come to a deal to erase the company's debt. Attorneys for Chrysler say eight plants will not be affected by the sale, including five that the automaker revealed it will shutter by the end of next year. While Chrysler faced its first hearing Friday in Manhattan bankruptcy court, court documents showed the Big Three automaker planned to close plants in Michigan, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin that employ about 4,800 people. Chrysler said they will be offered jobs at other plants. The company also announced President and Vice Chairman Tom LaSorda is retiring effective immediately.

Nation

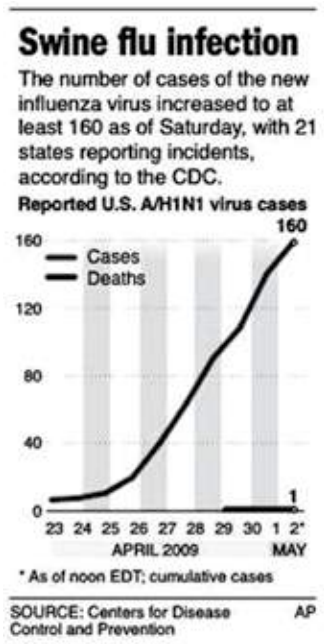
CDC says a 3rd of US flu cases had visited Mexico

ATLANTA (AP)—About a third of the confirmed U.S. cases of swine flu are people who had been to Mexico and likely picked up the infection there, a federal health official said Saturday.

But investigations indicate many cases are getting the illness here, and that it probably still is spreading, said Dr. Anne Schuchat of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In a press briefing, CDC officials said the agency knows of confirmed cases from 21 states, with Connecticut, Florida and Missouri the latest to join the list.

The CDC's count of 160 confirmed cases released Saturday is believed to already be outdated. Some states can now do their own tests for the swine flu virus and don't have to send samples to the CDC. States have reported about a dozen more cases, bringing the national total to more than 170.


Swine flu infection
The number of cases of the new influenza virus increased to at least 160 as of Saturday, with 21 states reporting incidents, according to the CDC.
Reported U.S. A/H1N1 virus cases
160
Cases
Deaths
120
80
40
0
1
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 1 2*
APRIL 2009
MAY
* As of noon EDT; cumulative cases
SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
AP

The swine flu cases range in age from 1 to 81, but the majority are people younger than 20, said Schuchat, the CDC's interim deputy director for science and public health. Most U.S. cases have been relatively mild; only 13 have been hospitalized.

Notre Dame's Obama invite riles Catholic bishops

By ERIC GORSKI
AP RELIGION WRITER

This coming week, Bishop Thomas Wenski of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orlando, Fla., will take the unusual step of celebrating a Mass of Reparation, to make amends for sins against God.

The motivation: to provide an outlet for Catholics upset with what Wenski calls the University of Notre Dame's "clueless" decision to invite President Barack Obama to speak at its commencement and receive an honorary doctorate May 17.

The nation's flagship Catholic university's honoring of a politician whose abortion rights record clashes with a fundamental church teaching has triggered a reaction among the nation's Catholic bishops that is remarkable in scope and tone, church observers say.

Dems sense opportunity on gay marriage

WASHINGTON (AP—Gay marriage legalization in several states and the public's growing acceptance of same-sex unions have Democrats sensing political opportunity and some Republicans re-evaluating their party's hardline opposition to an issue that long has rallied its base.

In recent weeks, Vermont and Iowa have legalized same-sex marriage, while New York, Maine and New Hampshire have taken steps in that direction. Polls show younger Americans are far are more tolerant on the issue than are older generations. For now at least, the public is much more focused on the troubled economy and two wars than on social issues.

In addition, over the past decade, public acceptance of gay marriage has changed dramatically.

A Quinnipiac University poll released last week found that a majority of people questioned, by a 55-38 percent margin, oppose gay marriage. But it also found that people, by a 57-38 percent margin, support civil unions that would provide marriage-like rights for same-sex couples, indicating a shift toward more acceptance.

With congressional elections next year, Republicans, Democrats and nonpartisan analysts say the changes benefit Democrats, whose bedrock liberals favor gay unions, and disadvantage Republicans, whose conservative base insists that marriage be solely between a man and a woman.

ACROSS THE NATION

Jack Kemp, former quarterback and VP nominee, dies

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jack Kemp, the ex-quarterback, congressman, one-time vice-presidential nominee and self-described "bleeding-heart conservative," died Saturday. He was 73. Kemp died after a lengthy illness, according to spokeswoman Bona Park and Edwin J. Feulner, a longtime friend and former campaign adviser. Park said Kemp died at his home in Bethesda, Md., in the Washington suburbs. Kemp's office announced in January that he had been diagnosed with an unspecified type of cancer. Kemp, a former quarterback for the Buffalo Bills, represented western New York for nine terms in Congress, leaving the House for an unsuccessful presidential bid in 1988.

2 upstate NY men accused of stealing, eating calf

PALMYRA, N.Y. (AP)—Two unemployed, hungry men stole a calf from a neighbor's barn, shot it with an arrow and slit its throat before roasting its meat, police said. David Lochner, 21, and Timothy Welch, 18, were camping outside Palmyra, 20 miles southeast of Rochester, several weeks ago when a dairy farmer reported his calf missing, said State Police Investigator John Stubbe. Authorities found a bloody bow and remains near the barn and in a river. The two men first said they had shot a deer. But Stubbe said authorities later determined that the two had walked from their campsite to Brandon Hoad's barn and broken in.

Mo. woman convicted of murder commits suicide

CASSVILLE, Mo. (AP)—A southwest Missouri woman convicted of second-degree murder committed suicide at home before she could be sentenced. Barry County authorities say 47-year-old Adella Fae Patton, of Monett, died Friday after taking an overdose of medication. Patton was out on bond and awaiting sentencing after being found guilty Thursday of second-degree murder and armed criminal action in the death of her on-again, off-again boyfriend. The judge had allowed Patton's $250,000 bond to remain in place after the guilty verdict. Coroner Jim Fohn confirmed Patton's death was a suicide and says the woman left behind notes indicating she could not serve time in prison. At trial, Patton said she shot and killed 45-year-old Kevin L. Madison of rural Exeter in self-defense in December 2005.

Asia

Doctor: 64 killed in military's shelling of Sri Lanka hospital

AP

In this handout photograph made available by Tamil Net, a pro-Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam website, dead bodies are seen lying inside a ward in a makeshift hospital after it was shelled in Mullivaaykkaal, Sri Lanka, Saturday, May 2, 2009.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lankan forces shelled a makeshift hospital in the war zone Saturday, killing 64 civilians despite a pledge to stop using heavy weapons in its battle with the Tamil Tigers, a rebel-linked Web site said.

A health official in the war zone confirmed the hospital was hit twice by artillery throughout the day, though the official declined to say who was responsible. The military denied launching the attack.

Sri Lanka has come under increasing international pressure to halt its offensive against the rebels to safeguard the estimated 50,000 ethnic Tamil civilians trapped by the fighting.

The government, which has cornered the Tamil Tigers in a 3-mile-long (5-kilometer-long) coastal strip, has refused, but it did promise to stop launching artillery and airstrikes into the area.

The TamilNet Web site said the government hit the makeshift hospital at Mullivaaykkaal twice on Saturday morning.

The attacks killed at least 64 patients and bystanders and wounded another 87, according to a government health official. The official, who said he was not certain of the source of the attack, declined to be identified because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

The attack killed a female volunteer doctor and wounded three medical workers, the Web site said.

Pakistan: Islamic appellate court formed

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan has announced the creation of an Islamic appellate court for a segment of its northwest as part of a peace deal aimed at ending fighting between security forces and Taliban militants.

The announcement late Saturday came as Pakistani forces repelled a mass assault on an outpost in a tribal region, a clash that left 18 people dead and shook claims by Pakistan's army to have regained control of the area.

Under the controversial peace deal struck in February, the government agreed to impose Islamic law in the northwest's Swat Valley and nearby areas to end some two years of bloody fighting—a pact likened by the U.S. to surrender. Pakistan officials in the northwest, however, argue the concession will persuade some to lay down their arms and isolate hard-liners.

Mian Iftikhar Hussain, the northwest province's information minister, said the formation of the appellate court—the "Darul Qaza"—meant the government was close to completing its side of the deal.

"Now anyone carrying arms would be treated as a rebel and would be prosecuted in the Qazi courts," Hussain said. He said two judges have been appointed so far to the panel, and more will be named later.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Judge: Mumbai attacks suspect to be tried as adult

MUMBAI, India (AP)—The only surviving suspected gunman in last year's terrorist attacks in Mumbai will be tried as an adult, which means he could face the death penalty, the presiding judge said. The defense lawyer representing Mohammed Ajmal Kasab said his client was 17 at the time of the November attacks and should be tried by a juvenile court. But Indian medical experts declared that Kasab is at least 20 after examining his teeth and X-rays of his bones. Judge M.L. Tahiliyani, who was presiding over his trial, ruled Saturday that the medical tests were enough to prove Kasab was an adult at the time of the attacks. Prosecutors say Kasab, a Pakistani, was one of 10 attackers responsible for killing 166 people and wounding 304 more during the three-day siege of India's financial capital. Nine other suspects were killed during the attacks. He will face the death penalty if convicted. Had he been tried as a minor, Kasab would have faced a maximum of three years in prison.

Myanmar's Cyclone Nargis survivors still need help

THA GYAR HIN OH, Myanmar (AP)—The monsoons are due any day now, and for the hundreds of villagers with fresh memories of last year's deadly Cyclone Nargis, an emergency shelter that opened Saturday was yet another reminder that their huts - and their lives - remain fragile. "How are we going to survive if another strong wind comes?" said Hla Thin, who clung to a coconut tree with her husband on May 2, 2008, when Nargis whipped through and wiped out their former home. "It was so dark and the sound of the water and wind was so terrifying. We heard people calling for help." Nargis crashed into Myanmar's southwestern coast in the middle of the night, sweeping away entire farming villages and killing nearly 140,000 people, and 12 months on people in some of the hardest-hit and most isolated areas are still suffering.

Swine flu: HK quarantines hundreds at hotel

HONG KONG (AP)—Hundreds of tourists and employees were under quarantine in a downtown Hong Kong hotel Saturday after a Mexican guest tested positive for swine flu. With the outbreak on its doorstep, China suspended direct flights from the Latin American country. Hours after the first confirmed case in Asia was reported, the continent got its second: Tests showed a South Korean woman also had the disease. She has been under quarantine since returning earlier this week from Mexico, the epicenter of the disease. Sixteen people in Mexico and one toddler in the U.S. have died from the disease. More than 650 cases have been confirmed worldwide, with 397 in Mexico. Canada, Israel, New Zealand and more than a half-dozen European countries have also confirmed cases.

World

Mexico's death toll from swine flu increases to 19

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico reported three new deaths from the swine flu epidemic Saturday and urged citizens not to let their guard down against a virus that has killed 19 in people in Mexico and is spreading across Asia and Europe.

Health Secretary Jose Angel Cordova said Mexico's confirmed swine flu cases jumped to 473, including the 19 deaths. The previous death toll in Mexico was 16. A Mexican toddler also died in Texas days ago, for a worldwide total of 20.

Mexico's last confirmed swine flu death occurred Wednesday, Cordova said. However, he said there were 11 cases of people suspected to have died from the virus in the last 24 hours. The alarming news came after the epidemic's toll in Mexico appeared to be leveling off.

■■■

OTTAWA (AP)—Pigs on a Canadian farm have been infected with the new swine flu virus—apparently by a farm worker back from Mexico—and are under quarantine, officials said Saturday. It is the first known case of pigs having the virus.

But officials quickly urged caution. Swine flu regularly causes outbreaks in pigs and the pigs do not pose a food safety risk, Dr. Brian Evans, executive vice president with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, told a news conference.

The officials said the pigs in the province of Alberta were thought to be infected by a Canadian farm worker who recently visited Mexico and got sick after returning to Canada.

The traveler has recovered, and the estimated 200 sickened pigs are recovering as well, officials said. No pigs have died, and officials said they don't think the flu has spread beyond the farm.

■■■

Cases outside Mexico suggested the new swine flu strain is weaker than feared, but governments moved quickly anyway to ban flights and prepare quarantine plans. Experts warned the virus could mutate and come back with a vengeance.

Iraqi soldier kills 2 US soldiers, wounds 3

BAGHDAD (AP) -- An Iraqi soldier opened fire on a U.S. military team Saturday, killing two American soldiers and wounding three, the U.S. military said, in an attack that could sharpen worries about the extent of militant infiltration in Iraq's security forces.

Iraqi officials described the attacker—who was killed in the gunbattle—as a soldier who also served as a Sunni Muslim preacher for his unit near Mosul, which is one of the last urban strongholds for Sunni insurgents.

Such an ambush could increase pressure on the Shiite-led government to try to root out possible turncoats and slow efforts to bring Sunni militiamen into the police and military as rewards for helping battle al-Qaida in Iraq and other insurgent factions.

But any possible slowdown of the Sunni outreach will meet resistance from Washington, which sees the sectarian reconciliation as essential for Iraq's stability and to keep security gains from rolling back.

A U.S. military statement said the attacker was killed after firing on the U.S. soldiers near the entrance to a combat outpost 12 miles (20 kilometers) south of Mosul.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran hangs woman convicted of murder as a minor

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran has hanged a young woman who was convicted of murder when she was a minor, her lawyer said Saturday, drawing condemnation from international human rights groups who have sought to end capital punishment for juvenile offenders. Authorities executed the 23-year-old woman Friday in northern Iran without informing her lawyer or allowing the family to be present, said the lawyer, Mohammad Mostafaei. She was 17 at the time the crime was committed, in 2003. Iran executes more juvenile offenders than any other nation - eight last year and 42 since 1990, according to Amnesty International. Friday's was the second such execution this year in Iran, Mostafaei said.

NATO thwarts Somali pirates, seizes dynamite

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Special forces on a Portuguese warship seized explosives from suspected Somali pirates after thwarting an attack on an oil tanker, but later freed the 19 men. Hours later and hundreds of miles away, another band of pirates hijacked a cargo ship, a NATO spokesman said Saturday. Pirates are now holding 17 ships and around 300 crew, including the Greek-owned cargo ship *Ariana*, hijacked overnight with its Ukrainian crew. The attack on the *Ariana*, about 1,000 miles from the sea corridor NATO guards and the seizure of explosives from the group that attacked the crude oil tanker MV *Kition* may indicate the pirates are adapting their tactics as crews become better trained in counter-piracy measures.

Opposition Albanian lawmaker shot dead near home

TIRANA, Albania (AP)—An Albanian lawmaker from the main opposition Socialist Party was shot and killed outside his home late Saturday, according to a police official. Fatmir Xhindi,49, was killed in Roskovec, a city of 25,000 residents about 100 kilometers (62 miles) southwest of the capital, Tirana, the official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity, in line with police department policy. Xhindi was shot with a Kalashnikov automatic rifle, and the killers left the scene in a car, the official said, adding that the investigation was ongoing. Neither police nor a spokeswoman for the Socialist Party identified a possible motive for the killing.

273 German police injured in May Day riots

BERLIN (AP)—More than 270 police officers were injured in this year's May Day riots in the German capital, prompting criticism Saturday of Berlin security officials and calls for more officers. Though the majority of the 273 officers suffered only minor injuries Friday, 14 were badly enough hurt that they will need to take time off work, said Berlin police chief Dieter Glietsch. He did not have more specifics. In all, 5,800 police officers were on hand to try to keep a lid on the violence that has become a yearly ritual in Berlin. They used tear gas, pepper spray and water cannon as some of the roughly 5,000 leftist demonstrators, marching under the motto "capitalism is war and crisis," threw stones and bottles. Dozens of demonstrators were injured but there were no exact figures; 289 were arrested. A bank and a fire station had windows broken.

Health & Fitness

What you need to know about the new swine flu

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

AP

A medic wearing protective gear admits a sick child carried by her mother into the emergency area where people with swine flu-like symptoms are checked at the naval hospital in Mexico City, Friday May 1, 2009.

WASHINGTON (AP)—As the new swine flu spreads, people have lots of questions about how it affects their day-to-day life. Here are some answers.

Q: How easy is it to catch this virus?

A: It's spreading as easily as regular winter flu, which infects millions each year. Early estimates are that 25 percent to 30 percent of family members are getting sick once a relative brings it home.

Q: How dangerous is it?

A: Nobody knows yet. Genetically, it doesn't share the same traits that made the infamous 1918 pandemic so deadly, nor does it seem as virulent as the bird flu that scientists have tracked for several years. While Mexico reported many deaths, the virus is causing less severe illness in the U.S. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says most cases so far haven't needed medical attention.

Q: Could I have some immunity?

A: Since it's a never-before-seen mix of mostly pig but also human and bird viruses, the CDC has cautioned that's unlikely. But it is a member of the H1N1 family of flu viruses, which circulate widely. Flu specialist John Treanor at the University of Rochester says people born before 1957 spent their childhood repeatedly exposed to H1 viruses. So experts are withholding final judgment on that question.

Q: Is it treatable?

A: Yes, with the standard anti-flu drugs Tamiflu and Relenza. They lessen symptoms if taken within 48 hours of the first symptoms.

Q: Is there a vaccine?

A: No. The government is working to develop one and the earliest shots could roll out would be in the fall, if authorities decide the virus remains enough of a threat to offer those shots. Manufacturers are preparing regular flu shots for the fall, when routine influenza strains will start circulating regardless of swine flu.

Q: Why does CDC stress handwashing?

A: Flu viruses do spread through the air, so cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or by sneezing into your elbow rather than your hand. But flu also can spread by touching your mouth or nose with unwashed hands. The viruses can live on surfaces such as doorknobs or handrails for a few hours, or be passed by a handshake.

Q: Do hand gels work better?

A: No, they're just an alternative, says Dr. Richard Besser, the CDC's acting chief. He keeps a bottle in his pocket. The bigger issue is to wash hands well enough to get rid of germs. Sing "Happy Birthday" or "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" to know you've scrubbed long enough, he advises.

Q: How long do I have to worry if I just got back from Mexico?

A: The incubation period is two days to seven days, regardless of where you were exposed.

Q: How long should I stay home if I get the flu?

A: Certainly call your doctor about bad symptoms or if you're at all worried, especially if you have any chronic condition, such as asthma, that makes you more susceptible to any kind of flu. But other than going out for medical care, stay home for seven days or for one day after symptoms end. The CDC also says family members should consider staying home or decreasing their contact with others in case they're incubating the infections.

Q: Why are so many schools closing?

A: It's not clear just how much good school closings do in slowing flu's spread. It doesn't help much if kids then gather at the mall or a friend's house or day care. But because children spread all kinds of viruses easily - they don't wash as well, have close contact in crowded classes, and sometimes are contagious for a few days longer than adults - the CDC has advised schools with cases to consider closing for at least 14 days.

Q: Can pets get sick?

A: Besser says there's no evidence that this flu affects anyone other than humans.

Q: Can flu spread on imported fruits and vegetables from Mexico?

A: No. It doesn't spread through any food, including pork.

Q: Is it safe to fly? How about the subway?

A: Yes, the CDC says. Just don't travel if you're sick - stay home.

Q: Do I need a mask in crowded areas?

A: The CDC hasn't yet recommended that anyone other than health workers use masks.

Q: Why hasn't the U.S. closed the border with Mexico?

A: By the time authorities detected the new virus, it already had spread here. That makes closing the border moot, the Obama administration says.

Q: I have a summer trip planned to a state with lots of cases. Should I cancel?

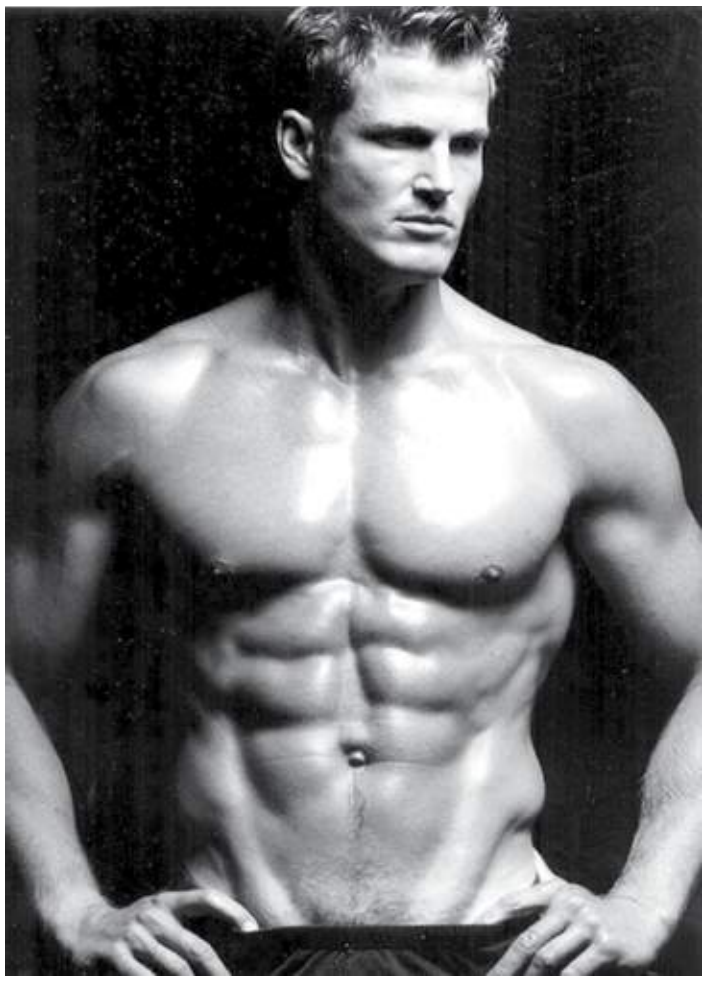
A: Not yet, just stay tuned, Besser advises. Doctors should know much more about this flu by then.

Q: Why did the government quit using the name "swine flu" this past week?

A: Because of concern that people thought they might catch the virus from pigs or pork—which is wrong. It is spread person to person.

Q: How can I get more information?

A: On the Web, check http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu or call CDC's 24-hour hot line, in English or Spanish, at 1-800-CDC-INFO.



Getting that firm six-pack abs could become daunting–and nearly impossible–after one reaches a certain age.

Is 60 too old for a six-pack?

By JEANNINE STEIN
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Occasionally we get letters from readers asking for fitness advice. A 60-year-old man recently wrote about his abs.

"I keep to a stringent exercise regimen, with weight training every other day and aerobics on a treadmill every day. I also eat well, keeping my weight close to what it was when I was 18. However, whatever I do and regardless of how hard I work out, I am unable to tighten the skin in the midsection (for six-pack abs). Can you tell me if this is just age, or if there is something else I can do?"

Let's dispense with the bad news first—the stuff you can't do much about. Some of that sagging might be loss of skin elasticity from the normal aging process, the same process that makes our faces wrinkle. Loose skin can also be chalked up to genes, and if that's the case, please feel free to blame your parents. But blame yourself if you've spent copious time in the sun, since that can prematurely age skin, making it head south.

Now for the things you can change.

We spoke with Pete McCall, an exercise physiologist with the San Diego-based American Council on Exercise, who suggests examining diet first.

This reader said that he eats well, but how that diet breaks down is important. He should include some good fats, because they contribute to skin health, fueling production of collagen, a protein found in the connective tissue that helps keeps the skin smooth, taut and wrinkle-free. Good sources of poly-unsaturated and mono-unsaturated fats are avocados, nuts, seeds and olive oil.

As for workouts, McCall says those may need some tweaking as well. The same strength-training workouts week in and week out might not be taxing the musculoskeletal system and thus might not be building new muscle. That's especially important as we age because starting around age 40, men lose about 1 percent of their muscle mass a year.

"Doing more intense weights and explosive training will help the body create more testosterone, which produces muscle growth," McCall says. "That could help fill out the skin and create that tightness. If you're just lifting the same weight every time, you're not stimulating any muscle development."

Because power lifting requires heavier weights and specific lifting techniques, consider getting some help from a personal trainer before embarking on a program.

We understand that not seeing the desired results is frustrating, but there is a point at which vanity might need to take a back seat. Or maybe stay in the front seat, but be very quiet.

"What I try to get people to think about," McCall says, "is that if you train for the mirror, you're never going to be happy. When I work with clients I ask them what is their performance goal—do they want to run, ride a bike? I tell them to train for function, and then form follows function. The type of training they do will produce a good body."

Sports such as swimming, soccer, martial arts or basketball work the entire body, with the muscles performing in unison, not in isolated bouts as with weight training. If sports aren't on your roster, you might want to check out some masters programs, such as U.S. Masters Swimming and USA Track & Field.

Life & Style

Old Japanese maps on Google Earth unveil secrets

AP

In this computer screen image taken from the Google Earth software, a feudal map of a village in central Japan from hundreds of years ago, superimposed on a modern street map, is shown. The village is clearly labeled "eta," an old word for Japan's outclass of untouchables known as "burakumin." The word literally means "filthy mass" and is now considered to be a racial slur.

By JAY ALABASTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

TOKYO (AP)—When Google Earth added historical maps of Japan to its online collection last year, the search giant didn't expect a backlash. The finely detailed woodblock prints have been around for centuries, they were already posted on another Web site, and a historical map of Tokyo put up in 2006 hadn't caused any problems.

But Google failed to judge how its offering would be received, as it has often done in Japan. The company is now facing inquiries from the Justice Ministry and angry accusations of prejudice because its maps detailed the locations of former low-caste communities.

The maps date back to the country's feudal era, when shoguns ruled and a strict caste system was in place. At the bottom of the hierarchy were a class called the "burakumin," ethnically identical to other Japanese but forced to live in isolation because they did jobs associated with death, such as working with leather, butchering animals and digging graves.

Castes have long since been abolished, and the old buraku villages have largely faded away or been swallowed by Japan's sprawling metropolises. Today, rights groups say the descendants of burakumin make up about 3 million of the country's 127 million people.

But they still face prejudice, based almost entirely on where they live or their ancestors lived. Moving is little help, because employers or parents of potential spouses can hire agencies to check for buraku ancestry through Japan's elaborate family records, which can span back over a hundred years.

An employee at a large, well-known Japanese company, who works in personnel and has direct knowledge of its hiring practices, said the company actively screens out burakumin job seekers.

"If we suspect that an applicant is a burakumin, we always do a background check to find out," she said. She agreed to discuss the practice only on condition that neither she nor her company be identified.

Lists of "dirty" addresses circulate on Internet bulletin boards. Some surveys have shown that such neighborhoods have lower property values than surrounding areas, and residents have been the target of racial taunts and graffiti. But the modern locations of the old villages are largely unknown to the general public, and many burakumin prefer it that way.

Google Earth's maps pinpointed several such areas. One village in Tokyo was clearly labeled "eta," a now strongly derogatory word for burakumin that literally means "filthy mass." A single click showed the streets and buildings that are currently in the same area.

Google posted the maps as one of many "layers" available via its mapping software, each of which can be easily matched up with modern satellite imagery. The company provided no explanation or historical context, as is common practice in Japan. Its basic stance is that its actions are acceptable because they are legal, one that has angered burakumin leaders.

"If there is an incident because of these maps, and Google is just going to say 'it's not our fault' or 'it's down to the user,' then we have no choice but to conclude that Google's system itself is a form of prejudice," said Toru Matsuoka, a member of Japan's upper house of parliament.

Asked about its stance on the issue, Google responded with a formal statement that "we deeply care about human rights and have no intention to violate them."

Google spokesman Yoshito Funabashi points out that the company doesn't own the maps in question, it simply provides them to users. Critics argue they come packaged in its software, and the distinction is not immediately clear.

Printing such maps is legal in Japan. But it is an area where publishers and museums tread carefully, as the burakumin leadership is highly organized and has offices throughout the country. Public showings or publications are nearly always accompanied by a historical explanation, a step Google failed to take.

Matsuoka, whose Osaka office borders one of the areas shown, also serves as secretary general of the Buraku Liberation League, Japan's largest such group. After discovering the maps last month, he raised the issue to Justice Minister Eisuke Mori at a public legal affairs meeting on March 17.

Two weeks later, after the public comments and at least one reporter contacted Google, the old Japanese maps were suddenly changed, wiped clean of any references to the buraku villages. There was no note made of the changes, and they were seen by some as an attempt to quietly dodge the issue.

"This is like saying those people didn't exist. There are people for whom this is their hometown, who are still living there now," said Takashi Uchino from the Buraku Liberation League headquarters in Tokyo.

The Justice Ministry is now "gathering information" on the matter, but has yet to reach any kind of conclusion, according to ministry official Hideyuki Yamaguchi.

The League also sent a letter to Google, a copy of which was provided to The Associated Press. It wants a meeting to discuss its knowledge of the buraku issue and position on the use of its services for discrimination. It says Google should "be aware of and responsible for providing a service that can easily be used as a tool for discrimination."

Google has misjudged public sentiment before. After cool responses to privacy issues raised about its Street View feature, which shows ground-level pictures of Tokyo neighborhoods taken without warning or permission, the company has faced strong public criticism and government hearings. It has also had to negotiate with Japanese companies angry over their copyrighted materials uploaded to its YouTube property.

An Internet legal expert said Google is quick to take advantage of its new technologies to expand its advertising network, but society often pays the price.

"This is a classic example of Google outsourcing the risk and appropriating the benefit of their investment," said David Vaile, executive director of the Cyberspace Law and Policy Center at the University of New South Wales in Australia.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

DELORES PALACIOS CURLEY

better known as
"Ling Gary or Ling Itmanu"
of Fina Sisu
was called to her eternal rest on April 22, 2009
at the age of 68.

March 2, 1941 – April 22, 2009

She is Pre-deceased by her:

Parents	:	†Jose San Miguel Palacios and †Maria Santos Palacios
Parents-In-Law	:	†Guy and †Doris Curley
Sister	:	†Isabel Palacios Cabrera and Prutenciana S. Palacios
Brothers	:	†Vicente S. Palacios, Jesus S. Palacios and Joaquin S. Palacios
Brother-In-Law	:	†Joaquin Samuel Torres Cabrera

Her spirit and memories will live in the hearts of her:
Husband : **Gary Curley**

Children, Spouses and Grand-Children:
***Mark P. and Mary Crawford (Isabel and Katlyn), Houston, Texas**
***Patrick P. and Mari Crawford (Chase, Dominic, Harrison, Hannah and Madeline), Oxnard, CA**
***Danny P. Crawford (Taylor), San Diego, CA**
***Ricky P. Burtz, San Diego, CA**
***Tina C. and Jeff Lee (Jensen and Christian), Mission Viejo, CA**
***Chuck and Cindy Curley, San Diego, CA**

Brothers/Sisters/In-laws and Family:
Jose S. and Rosa P. Palacios and Family
Francisco "Dino" S. and Fermina C. Palacios and Family
Maria Carmen Palacios and Antonio C. Muña and Family
Remedio Palacios and Hasmid Haro and Family
†Isabel Palacios and †Joaquin Samuel T. Cabrera and Family

She is additionally survived by numerous Uncles, Aunties, Nephews, Nieces, Cousins and Godchildren.

Nightly Mass and Rosaries at Saint Jude's Church are as follows:
Wednesday-Friday, April 22, 2009 to April 24, 2009, Mass at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Rosary
Saturday, April 25, 2009, Mass at 7:00 a.m. and Rosary is at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 26, 2009, Mass at 6:00 a.m. and Rosary is at 7:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday, April 27, 2009 to May 1, 2009, Mass at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Rosary
Saturday, May 2, 2009, Mass at 7:00 a.m. and Rosary is at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 3, 2009, Mass at 6:00 a.m. and Rosary is at 7:00 p.m.
Monday-Tuesday, May 4, 2009 to May 5, 2009, Mass at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Rosary

On Wednesday, May 6, 2009, her remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home at 7:30 a.m. to the Mount Carmel Cathedral for viewing and last respect. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 12:00 p.m., followed by Interment Services at the Veteran's Cemetery in Marpi.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.
Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Mr. Gary Lee Curley
Mark, Patrick, Danny, Ricky, Tina, Chuck and Family

The Edge's green pitch for Malibu riles residents

By NOAKI SCHWARTZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MALIBU, Calif. (AP)—A few years ago, U2 guitarist The Edge went for a hike, and there in the golden hills overlooking Malibu's cerulean waters, he finally found what he was looking for.

The Edge and his wife, Morleigh Steinberg, bought 156 acres in Santa Monica Mountains and now want to build five mansions there, including their own dream home. From a distance, they say, their house will look like nothing more than scattered leaves on the ridgeline.

"These homes will be some of the most environmentally sensitive ever designed in Malibu—or anywhere in the world," the guitarist, whose real name is David Evans, said in a prepared statement.

Nearby residents, however, haven't bought his green pitch and say The Edge is endangering the beauty of one of Southern California's most famous beachfront communities along with U2's globally conscious image.

AP

In this Monday, April 23, 2007 file photo, U2 guitarist The Edge is pictured in New York.

"It is going to look nice to the human eye but at what cost?" said surf shop owner and City Councilman Jefferson Wagner. "When is enough enough?"

The plan has sparked the latest development controversy in Malibu, where residents and city officials portray themselves as stewards of a blessed environment—even as the construction of palatial mansions and sweeping driveways turn vast swaths of that environment to mulch.

The project proposed by The Edge calls for a cluster of five, 10,000-square-foot homes. The two-story, earth-toned dwellings would be the maximum size allowed in areas designated as environmentally sensitive habitat.

Renderings show organic design features such as a pool that encircles one home like a moat. Another house would wrap around an existing pile of boulders while The Edge's own dwelling would feature curved roof lines to simulate leaves.

The Edge is also proposing to dig an access road up the mountain behind the exclusive Serra Retreat neighborhood of about 90 homes that stars such as Mel Gibson, Kelsey Grammer and Britney Spears have called home.

"They're claiming it's a green environmental project, but you'd have to live in the houses a thousand years" to make up for the carbon dioxide emitted by the trucks hauling the dirt out, said Lawrence Weisdorn, president of the Serra Retreat homeowners association.

Still, the plan by The Edge has won the approval of Los Angeles County and in June is expected to go before the California Coastal Commission, which regulates coastal development.

Steve Hudson, regional supervisor of planning and regulation for the commission, said the project will have to overcome some hurdles. For instance, the road would require significant grading in a habitat of chaparral and coastal sage where landslides are an ongoing issue.

Carol Ann Duffy chosen as UK poet laureate

By JILL LAWLESS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LONDON (AP)—The centuries-old post of British poet laureate, bard to kings and queens, has been held by William Wordsworth, Alfred Lord Tennyson and Ted Hughes—but never, until Friday, by a woman.

Carol Ann Duffy said she hesitated before accepting the job, which brings a high public profile and an expectation to rhapsodize about royal weddings, funerals and major state occasions.

In the end, she left the decision to her 13-year-old daughter, Ella: "She said, 'Yes mummy, there's never been a woman.'"

Duffy, 53, said that as laureate she would write "whatever needs to be written."

She said poetry "is a place we can go to for comfort, celebration, when we're in love, when we're bereaved and sometimes for events that happen to us as a nation."

A witty and popular writer whose work is widely taught in British schools, Duffy is also the first openly gay poet laureate.

When she was first considered for the post in 1999, some newspapers reported that the government was worried about how a lesbian laureate would be received by the British public. The job went to Andrew Motion.

"I think we've all grown up a lot over the past 10 years," Duffy said.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown called Duffy "a truly brilliant modern poet who has stretched our imaginations by putting the whole range of human experiences into lines that capture the emotions perfectly."

AP

Poet and writer Carol Ann Duffy seen at John Rylands Library in Manchester, England, Friday, May 1, 2009, after she was awarded the role of national poet laureate, the first woman to hold a post, which in the past has been filled by William Wordsworth, Alfred, Lord Tennyson and Ted Hughes among others.

Duffy has published more than 30 books—plays and children's stories as well as poems that mix accessible modern language with traditional forms such as the sonnet. Her work often displays a sly, feminist take on history and contains a strong vein of social commentary.

"She has such a wide range of register," said Judith Palmer, director of the Poetry Society, Britain's largest poetry organization. "She writes poems of enormously dry, sardonic wit, and very sexy, fanciful poems, and brilliant poems for children."

Duffy's collections include "The World's Wife," verses that adopt the voices of female historical figures and the wives of famous men. It includes the poem "Mrs. Darwin":

"7 April 1852/Went to the Zoo/I said to him—Something about that chimpanzee over there reminds me of you."

Last year, when the issue of youth knife crime was in the news, an exam board removed Duffy's poem "Education for Leisure" from an anthology for high school students. Poets and many teachers condemned the axing of the poem, which is written from the point of view of a disturbed individual and begins "Today I am going to kill something. Anything/I have had enough of being ignored."

Duffy responded to the furor with a witty poem pointing out the amount of knife violence in Shakespeare's plays.

Britain's first official poet laureate was John Dryden, appointed in 1668, although the tradition is centuries older than that. Until 1999, laureates were appointed for life.

The role initially involved writing odes to celebrate events such as the monarch's birthday, but recent postholders have had more flexibility about what they do.

Armed robbers steal paintings from Dutch museum

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—Masked gunmen stole two paintings from a Dutch museum Friday, including a work by surrealist Salvador Dali, officials said.

Police said several robbers threatened a guard at the Scheringa Museum for Realism in Spanbroek with a gun before making off with two paintings. Nobody was injured.

The robbers took "Adolescence," a 1941 gouache by Dali and "La Musicienne," an oil painting from 1929 by Polish-born art deco painter Tamara de Lempicka, the museum said in a statement.

The paintings' value was not released, but the museum says they are among the top works in its collection.

The Dali painting was 18 x 12 inches (45 by 30 centimeters) and the De Lempicka's was 46 x 29 inches (116 by 73 centimeters).

"We deeply regret the theft and hope the works are traced soon," according to a statement from the museum, which is 30 miles (50 kilometers) north of Amsterdam.

The Dali painting shows a landscape in which a woman's face can be seen—her lips and nose are formed by the back of a seated woman and her eyes are part of two hills in the background.

The Lempicka shows a woman in a vivid blue dress playing a mandolin-like instrument.

The museum houses the art collection of wealthy Dutch banker Dirk Scheringa and his wife.

Las Vegas Strip performer Danny Gans dies at 52

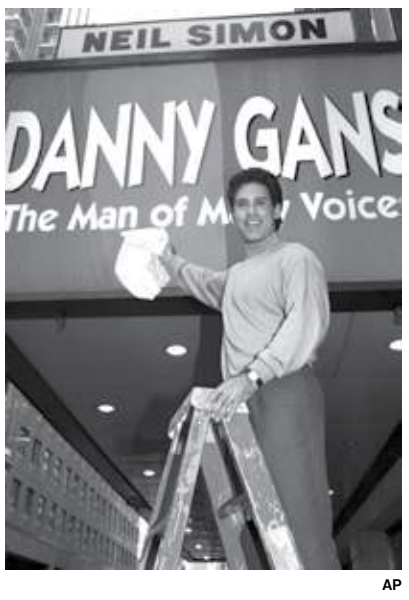
LAS VEGAS (AP)—Singer-actor-impressionist Danny Gans, who spent more than a decade as one of the most popular entertainers in Las Vegas, died Friday. He was 52. Gans was pronounced dead in his bed shortly after police and paramedics were summoned to his home about 3:45 a.m., said police spokesman Todd Rasmussen.

Foul play was not suspected, but police were investigating "according to standard procedure," Rasmussen said.

Clark County Coroner Michael Murphy released a statement saying a medical examination would be done Friday, but it could take several weeks to receive laboratory results and determine the cause of death.

Gans' manager and longtime friend, Chip Lightman, said Gans was in good health but slept poorly after Wednesday's show and took a nap late Thursday afternoon, a day off. He stayed in bed into the evening, and his wife, Julie, summoned police when she couldn't rouse him after 3 a.m.

"This makes no sense," said Lightman, who said Gans didn't use illegal drugs, didn't smoke and had no apparent medical issues. "I managed him 18 years and health was never an issue."



AP

In this Sept. 27, 1995 file photo, Danny Gans dusts off the marquee of New York's Neil Simon Theater, which hosts his one-man show, "Danny Gans: The Man of Many Voices."

Lightman described Gans, who had a bit part as third baseman Deke in the 1988 baseball film "Bull Durham," as an energetic health nut who watched his diet, loved to perform, and relished his involvement in Las Vegas area fundraisers and philanthropic causes.

Gans was mourned by two Las Vegas entertainment legends, Siegfried Fischbacher and Roy Horn.

Like Gans and Wayne Newton, the careers of the German duo became synonymous with Las Vegas after they brought their acts to the Strip.

"We were blessed to be touched by his generous spirit, kind heart and insurmountable talent," Siegfried & Roy said in a statement.

Daniel Davies Gans grew up in Torrance, Calif., met his wife in college in San Luis Obispo, and parlayed a comedy and impression routine he developed on bus rides as a minor league baseball player into a fledgling entertainment career, Lightman said.

"Danny at that time was just a fun guy on the bus," he said.

After Gans hurt his leg playing baseball, he made a first comedy club appearance on a dare. It worked, and he began honing his routine as a variety show performer in Palm Desert, Calif., before touring the country as a banquet performer for business groups.

In 1995, Gans began a one-man show, "Danny Gans on Broadway: The Man of Many Voices," at the Neil Simon Theater in New York.

"A hardworking, eager-to-please entertainer who does rapid-fire imitations of show-biz personalities ranging from Tony Bennett to Al Pacino to Sarah Vaughan," AP Drama Critic Michael Kuchwara said of Gans in a review.

Gans' dexterity switching through the voices of John Travolta, Clint Eastwood, Rodney Dangerfield, Wayne Newton, Woody Allen, Robin Leach, Bill Cosby and others in "The Twelve Days of Christmas" impressed Kuchwara, who characterized Gans' humor as "the cozy comedy of ... nudge-nudge, wink-wink reaction."

Officials at Wynn Resorts, where Gans had performed four nights a week at the 1,500-seat Encore Theater since Feb. 10, and at The Mirage, where he performed from April 2000 to November 2008, said they were stunned by Gans' sudden death.

"The loss of Danny to his wife Julie, his children Amy, Andrew and Emily is at this moment impossible to comprehend," said Steve Wynn, who installed Gans as a headliner when he owned The Mirage and hired him again to perform at Encore, a sister property to the Wynn Las Vegas.

The large electronic marquee in front of the Encore posted Gans' photograph and the message: "Our friend forever, Danny Gans. 1956-2009."

Gans worked his way up in Las Vegas, after deciding to leave Broadway in 1997 to be closer to his family in La Canada Flintridge, Calif., Lightman said.

African girl's dad doesn't want Madonna adoption

NEW YORK (AP)—The father of an African girl Madonna hopes to adopt says he wants to take care of his daughter himself—even though he's never met her.

James Kambewa, believed to be the biological father of Chifundo "Mercy" James, said he doesn't want the pop star to adopt the 4-year-old.

"I want to take care of her, and I'm capable to take care of my baby," he told CBS' "The Early Show" in an interview to be aired Monday. "Mercy, she is a Malawian—so (I) need her to grow as a Malawian as well with our culture."

Kambewa wears a necklace bearing his daughter's name but has never met her and says he has only seen her "in newspapers and TV—not face to face."

Madonna spokeswoman Liz Rosenberg said in an e-mail message Saturday she doesn't know if Kambewa is the father of the girl, who lives in an orphanage.

In this Feb. 22, 2009 file photo, Madonna arrives at the Vanity Fair Oscar party , in West Hollywood, Calif.

AP

"All I know is that Mercy has been in an orphanage since the day she was born," Rosenberg said.

Madonna's appeal of a court ruling denying her request to adopt the girl is to be heard Monday in Malawi, in southeast Africa. The "Material Girl" and "Like a Virgin" singer already has adopted a son, David, from there.

Malawi requires prospective parents to live there for 18 to 24 months while child welfare authorities assess their suitability. The rule wasn't applied when Madonna was allowed to take David to London in 2006.

Bon Jovi to make New Orleans Jazz Fest debut

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The rock group Bon Jovi is slated to make its debut at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.

The group known for such hits as "Livin' on a Prayer" and "Bad Medicine" helped the Bayou Area Habitat for Humanity build homes in south Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the region in August 2005.

Habitat volunteers in Houma will build a home on Bon Jovi Boulevard on Monday with money from the singer's charity, The Philadelphia Soul Charitable Foundation.

Other acts at Jazz Fest on Saturday include Dr. John, Cowboy Mouth, Kings of Leon and The O'Jays.

Neil Young, The Radiators, Allen Toussaint and The Neville Brothers will close the festival Sunday.

Jon Bon Jovi performs at the 2009 New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in New Orleans Saturday, May 2, 2009.

AP

Winehouse blocks paparazzi from her home

LONDON (AP)—Amy Winehouse has won a court order banning the paparazzi from pursuing her outside her London home, a source close to the singer's management team said Saturday.

The singer sought the order to ban photographers if they follow her or approach her within 100 meters (yards) of her home, according to the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not directly involved in the case.

Winehouse posted the anti-harrassment injunction outside her home.

The 25-year-old's drug problems have been front page news in Britain, where she was pictured puffing on what appeared to be a crack pipe last year.

Winehouse sought the injunction last month after moving from the north London neighborhood of Camden—known for its music scene and drug culture—to the more sleepy Hadley Wood area of Enfield, further north.

In this Sunday, Aug. 17, 2008, file photo, British singer, Amy Winehouse performs at the V Festival, near Chelmsford, England.

AP

'Wolverine' has box-office bite with $35M debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Going solo has paid off for Hugh Jackman and his "X-Men" spinoff.

Jackman's "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" kicked off the summer movie season with a howl by taking in $35 million on its opening day Friday.

According to Hollywood.com box-office analyst Paul Dergarabedian (der-GAIR'-uh-BEE'-dee-un), that puts "Wolverine" solidly in line with the three previous "X-Men" movies in which Jackman costarred.

The final chapter of that trilogy, "X-Men: The Last Stand," was the most successful with $45.1 million on opening day.

But "Wolverine" outdid the first two movies. "X-Men" had an opening day of $20.8 million, while "X2: X-Men United" did $31.2 million on its first day.

Mangione plays for NY air crash victims' families

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—Jazz musician Chuck Mangione has performed in upstate New York at a concert rescheduled after two of his band members died in a plane crash there in February. Other victims' relatives attended.

Sax player Gerard Niewood and guitarist Coleman Mellett were among 50 people killed when Continental Connection Flight 3407 crashed onto a house in the Buffalo suburb of Clarence on Feb. 12. They and Mangione had been scheduled to play in Buffalo the next evening.

The concert with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra was rescheduled for Friday. Mangione didn't mention the crash during the show's first half. He was expected to attend a post-concert fundraising party with victims' relatives and residents of the street where the plane crashed. Proceeds will go to a memorial fund.

Mellett was from East Brunswick, N.J.; Niewood was from Glen Ridge, N.J.

Woman ponders ending long alienation at friend's funeral

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: A former longtime friend, "Gladys," and I have been estranged for the past 10 years. It is a complicated situation, but generally it involved her divorce and later involvement with a married man.

While I am not a prude, there were some moral and ethical breaches on her part which made it uncomfortable for me to be in her company. We stopped calling or seeing each other.

Gladys has now become quite ill and may not survive. My dilemma is whether I should pay my respects to her family at the time of her death. I have known them all for many years.

REMAINING NAMELESS IN VIRGINIA

DEAR REMAINING NAMELESS: Funerals are supposed to provide comfort for the living, and I don't see how the presence of someone who describes herself as a "former" friend of their loved one would achieve that.

I have a suggestion. Why not pick up the phone, call Gladys and tell her how sorry you were to learn of her illness? Whether you approved of her divorce and affair, you have years of history together, and it would be better for both of you to make peace while there's still time.

DEAR ABBY: I work in the office of an elementary school. There is a lot to do, and I am frequently interrupted. While I enjoy conversations with parents and students, my problem is a few parents who want to engage in lengthy conversations—usually detailing personal problems.

One parent comes in daily, and I haven't found an effective way to extricate myself from these conversations. Walking out of the office is not an option. A ringing phone is not a deterrent as some parents will just stand there, wait until I finish and continue talking.

Have you any suggestions on how to politely let these parents know I have a job to do?

JOB INTERRUPTED OUT WEST

DEAR JOB INTERRUPTED: Allow me to offer one: How about telling them you're behind in your work and you haven't the time to talk that day. Period. Unless you become more assertive, these people will continue to monopolize your time, make you less effective and possibly jeopardize your job.

DEAR ABBY: Our 23-year-old daughter, "Andrea," moved out of the house at 17. She has been living with her fiance ever since. They plan to be married this summer, and my question is: Because she left our house of her own free will, is it still my husband's and my responsibility as her parents to pay for their wedding?

She has been living with her boyfriend, already has one child and is now pregnant with twins. We feel their wedding should be their expense to bear. We're willing to pay for the event if it is, in fact, still our responsibility as the bride's parents. Please advise.

MOTHER OF THE BRIDE, ANDERSON, IND.

DEAR MOTHER OF THE BRIDE: There is a common misconception that it is the RESPONSIBILITY of the bride's parents to pay for her wedding. Not true. Assuming the cost of the wedding is a GIFT to the couple, not an obligation. Many couples today are both working and pay for all or part of their wedding themselves. If you do not wish to foot the bill for the shindig, no rule of etiquette says you have to.

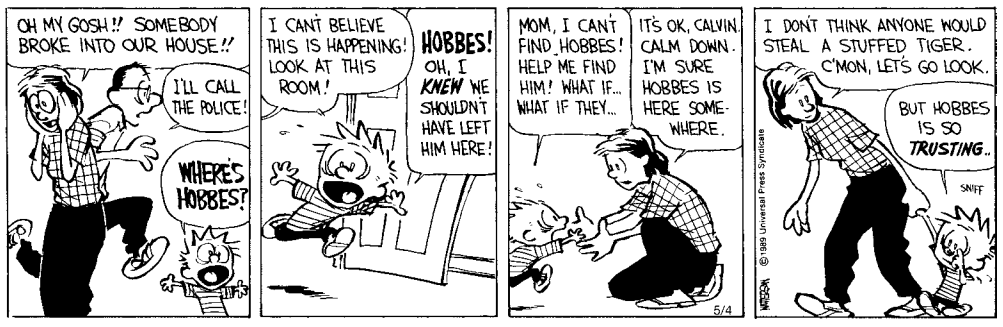
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OH MY GOSH!! SOMEBODY BROKE INTO OUR HOUSE!!
I'LL CALL THE POLICE!
WHERE'S HOBBES?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING! LOOK AT THIS ROOM!
HOBBES! OH, I KNEW WE SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT HIM HERE!
MOM, I CAN'T FIND HOBBES! HELP ME FIND HIM! WHAT IF... WHAT IF THEY...
IT'S OK, CALVIN. CALM DOWN. I'M SURE HOBBES IS HERE SOMEWHERE.
I DON'T THINK ANYONE WOULD STEAL A STUFFED TIGER. C'MON, LET'S GO LOOK.
BUT HOBBES IS SO TRUSTING..
SNIFF
© 1989 Universal Press Syndicate
5/4

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

AMONG SPIDERS, I'M CONSIDERED QUITE HANDSOME
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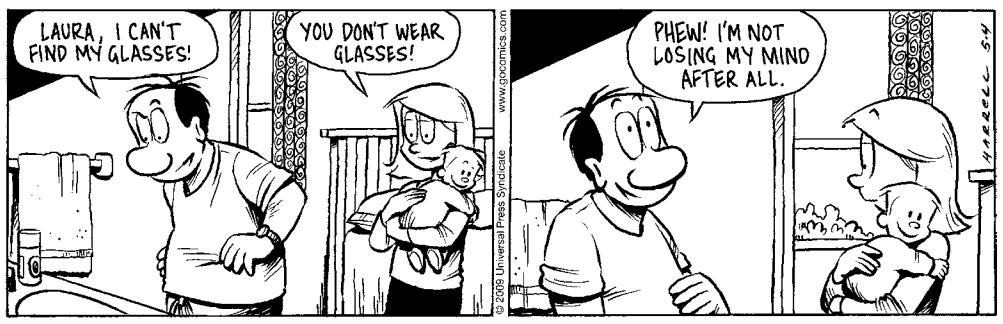
Text GARFIELD to 22646 US ONLY
JIM DAVIS 5-4
SMACK!
WELL, I WAAAAS!!!
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

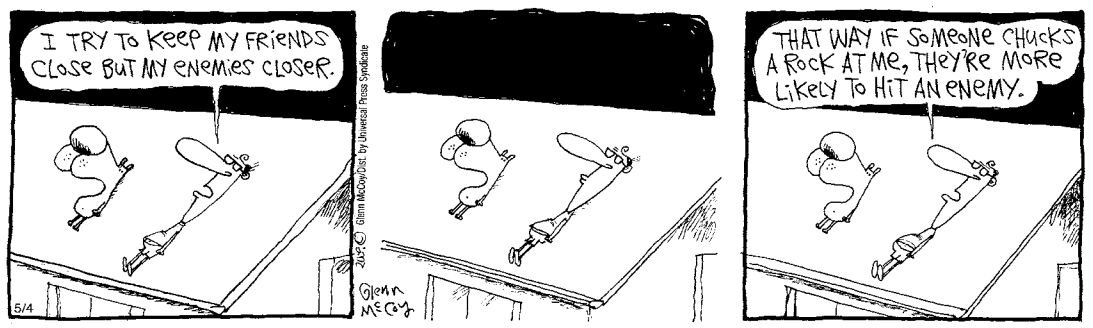
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


LAURA, I CAN'T FIND MY GLASSES!
YOU DON'T WEAR GLASSES!
© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.gocomics.com
PHEW! I'M NOT LOSING MY MIND AFTER ALL.
5-4

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I TRY TO KEEP MY FRIENDS CLOSE BUT MY ENEMIES CLOSER.
5/4
© Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
THAT WAY IF SOMEONE CHUCKS A ROCK AT ME, THEY'RE MORE LIKELY TO HIT AN ENEMY.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

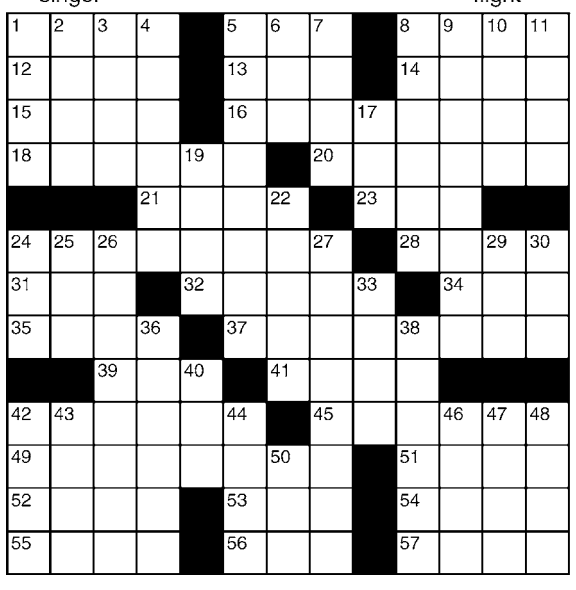
ACROSS
1 Cushions
5 Insecticide letters
8 Cooking fat
12 Cast-of-thousands movie
13 Blackbird
14 Medley
15 New Age musician John
16 Seek votes
18 But
20 Firstborn
21 Baseball legend Willie
23 Longing
24 Showy white flower
28 Appointment
31 Sapporo sash
32 Blunder
34 Ball prop
35 React in horror
37 "Gentle on My Mind" singer
39 Aye opposer
41 Untrustworthy sort
42 Slept soundly?
45 Monkey in a lab, maybe
49 Victoria's Secret buy
51 "— Karenina"
52 "So be it"
53 Scratch
54 Drunkards
55 Titanic thwarter
56 Type squares
57 Pairs

DOWN
1 Folk singer Seeger
2 Pinnacle
3 Frisbee, e.g.
4 Plot
5 Long-short-short, in poetic meter
6 "CSI" evidence
7 Occasion
8 Fraudulent, as dice
9 Estrange
10 Predetermines the outcome
11 "Cut it out!"
17 Thickness
19 Tropical tree
22 Twine fiber
24 Gear tooth
25 Lawyers' org.
26 Incorrect term
27 Fans
29 Aviv preceder
30 Slithery swimmer
33 Colorful fish
36 Removing rind
38 Item in a KFC bucket
40 "Of course"
42 Wound cover
43 Appellation
44 Capitol cap
46 Winter forecast
47 "Do — others ..."
48 Back talk
50 Felonious flight

Solution time: 24 mins.

■	T	O	R	A	H	■	S	T	A	K	E	S
L	A	R	E	D	O	■	T	H	R	I	L	L
S	L	A	L	O	M	■	O	R	E	L	S	E
D	E	L	I	■	E	S	A	U	■	L	A	W
■	■	■	C	A	R	T	■	M	A	J	■	■
R	U	B	■	S	O	R	E	■	L	O	A	F
P	S	Y	C	H	O	A	N	A	L	Y	Z	E
M	A	T	H	■	M	I	T	T	■	S	O	W
■	■	■	H	A	W	■	T	R	A	Y	■	■
A	P	E	■	R	I	S	E	■	O	G	L	E
N	E	W	T	O	N	■	A	Z	U	R	E	S
T	R	A	I	T	S	■	T	E	N	O	N	S
S	T	Y	L	E	T	■	Y	E	G	G	S	■

Saturday's answer 5-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lance Bass, 30; Jay Aston, 48; Randy Travis, 50; Pia Zadora, 55

Happy Birthday: Different lifestyles and philosophies may entice you but, in the end, you have to follow your heart and what works for you. This is not the year to take chances but it is a good time to take advantage of opportunities. Greater involvement with children, elders and the people to whom you are closest will bring you your greatest joy and insight. Your numbers are 3, 9, 14, 16, 20, 32, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Your precision coupled with detail will help you show everyone why you reign supreme. Set your goals and standards high and you will find peace of mind. Your experience will outshine impersonators and imposters. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Your knowledge and experience depends on interacting with people from different backgrounds who can inspire and motivate you. A serious approach and in-depth talks will help you stabilize your life. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't give in to a bully but do listen to someone offering wise suggestions. Love is on the rise and, by getting involved in something you enjoy, you will enhance the relationship you are already in or meet someone new. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You have to be proactive in order to maintain what you have worked so hard to accumulate. An older or more experienced individual will shed light on a situation you face. Don't let someone who claims to love you push you. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Problems with authority will require you to make a fast decision. Do what's in your heart and you won't be disappointed. Your knowledge and past experience will come in handy when it comes to professional gains. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Be upfront and don't hold back if something is bothering you. A change in finances will occur. Whether it is positive or negative will depend on how you handle the situation. A clean slate will help you get ahead in the future. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): There are skeletons in the closet that must be let out. A money proposition will help you get a handle on your financial situation. Make sure you aren't repeating a mistake you made once before. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Your creative plans will allow you to undermine someone who has been working hard to hold you back. A new partnership will bring you added strength and the ability to use positive force in order to get your way. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): An emotional problem will influence your work performance, if you aren't careful. A sudden change at home will leave you wondering what to do next. Seek advice from someone with more experience or insight. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You can successfully apply for a loan or close a deal or even ask for a debt to be repaid. A chance to work from home may entice you but chances are good that you'll miss important details if you do. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Consider a partnership with someone a little older and with more experience. You can incorporate your originality and youthful outlook. Your charm will help you win favors as well as bring about a new friendship. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A change of heart by someone you have worked with in the past will allow you to move forward with an old idea. Be open to suggestions and you can come up with workable solutions for any problems. Compromise will pay off. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent and capable and see the big picture. You are thoughtful and giving and insist that right prevail. You are strong, dedicated and loyal.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9		1		7			
		8		6		9		1
	6	7				5	4	
6			5		8			4
	5						3	
9			4		2			8
	2	9				3	8	
5		3		7		1		
			9		3		2	

Difficulty Level ★ 5/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	4	2	1	3	7	9	5	8
9	5	3	2	8	6	4	7	1
7	8	1	4	9	5	2	3	6
8	2	7	3	1	4	5	6	9
3	6	9	5	7	2	1	8	4
4	1	5	9	6	8	3	2	7
2	7	4	6	5	9	8	1	3
5	3	8	7	4	1	6	9	2
1	9	6	8	2	3	7	4	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/02

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MOPEDS **Solution: 9 letters**

L	K	T	R	A	V	E	L	T	M	I	R	R	O	R
I	(L)	R	O	A	D	D	I	O	E	N	I	G	N	E
G	(E)	A	A	D	E	R	E	W	O	P	W	O	L	D
H	(U)	E	M	P	E	D	A	L	S	H	I	K	S	N
T	(F)	R	O	S	D	R	I	V	E	T	C	E	A	I
S	I	N	V	R	E	N	W	O	A	I	K	S	L	L
G	D	S	A	C	K	S	U	T	N	I	S	S	E	Y
N	S	E	L	H	I	T	R	O	B	A	R	T	S	C
I	N	K	V	Z	C	O	R	E	R	O	A	E	S	E
T	S	A	E	I	P	T	N	D	L	G	E	M	R	L
F	D	R	S	S	C	E	U	O	C	C	G	L	I	B
I	N	B	N	E	F	E	C	L	R	O	I	E	A	I
H	A	A	L	I	M	I	T	S	C	I	V	H	P	S
S	R	E	T	O	O	C	S	P	E	E	D	E	E	I
T	B	S	U	S	P	E	N	S	I	O	N	E	R	V

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Last Saturday's Answer: Signing

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No OT: Celtics top Bulls to win Game 7

BOSTON (AP)—After a record-setting seven overtimes in the first six games, the Celtics made an early night of it with a dominating stretch in the second. That's second quarter, not second OT. Ray Allen followed his 51-point Game 6 performance with 23 on Saturday night, Paul Pierce added 20 and Boston pulled away from Chicago just before the half to finish the Bulls off 109-99—a rare regulation victory in what might have been be the best first-round playoff series in NBA history.

The Celtics will play Orlando in the Eastern Conference semifinals starting Monday. The seventh-seeded Bulls return to Chicago knowing they took the defending NBA champions to the limit—and quite often beyond.

Ben Gordon scored 33 for Chicago and Kirk Hinrich scored 14 of his 16 in the fourth quarter to help Chicago cut it to three points—thanks in part to a bizarre scoring change that added a point to the Bulls' score two quarters after a first-half 3-pointer was mistakenly ruled a 2.

But Boston made all 11 of its free throws in the last 2 minutes to hold on and keep its drive for an 18th NBA title alive.

Kendrick Perkins had 13 rebounds, Rajon Rondo had 11 assists and Eddie House scored 16 points—going 5-for-5 from the floor, including four 3-pointers.

After three consecutive overtime games, the series went from Odyssey to oddity when an unusual scoring correction helped the Bulls cut the deficit to three points in the fourth quarter.

With 5:44 left in regulation, the public address announcer said that a "technical error" in the first half had credited Gordon with a 2-pointer instead of a 3-pointer. Officials can use video replay to check whether a shot is from beyond the arc or not, but it is supposed to come at the first break after the basket—not two quarters later.

The change made the Celtics' lead 89-84, then Gordon hit a pair of free throws. Perkins followed with a layup and then traded free throws with Gordon before Eddie House hit a 3-pointer to make it 96-88 with 2:30 left.

AP

Boston Celtics' Ray Allen and Eddie House, right, celebrate near the end of their 109-99 victory over the Chicago Bulls in a first-round NBA basketball playoff game in Boston Saturday, May 2, 2009 to win the best-of-seven series.

The Celtics made 11 straight free throws from there—one of them on a three-point play by Allen that made it 105-97 with 37 seconds left.

Chicago led by as many as nine points, 32-23, after Gordon scored the first five points of the second quarter—giving him 17 at that point. The Bulls took a 36-30 lead with 8:01 left in the half before Boston scored the next 11 points and 20 of the next 22 to go into the break with a 14-point lead.

Chicago had eight turnovers and missed four free throws during the stretch.

Zach Johnson emerges with lead at Quail Hollow

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Tiger Woods dropped out of the lead with late bogeys for the second straight day, leaving former Masters champion Zach Johnson with a two-shot advantage Saturday heading into the final round of the Quail Hollow Championship.

Johnson was among the few who survived the "Green Mile," the three-hole stretch of closing holes at Quail Hollow. He made a 12-foot birdie on the 17th that carried him to a 4-under 68 and a chance to win for the second time this year.

Johnson, at 11-under 205, was two shots ahead of Woods, Lucas Glover and George McNeill, all of whom bogeyed at least the last hole.

The final two groups, including Johnson and McNeill, had to wait out a 1 hour, 12-minute storm delay before finishing the 18th hole. PGA Tour officials blew the horn to stop play right after Woods staggered to the finish line with a 70.

Woods birdied all the par 5s, including a two-putt from 12 feet on the 15th hole that put him in the outright lead at 11-under par for the first time in a third round that featured seven players atop the leaderboard at some point.

That he would drop two shots at the end was not terribly shocking, given the difficulty of the holes.

What bothered Woods was he had a 7-iron in his hand both times—a poor approach to the 17th that led to a three-putt from 60 feet, and a slight shift in the wind that kept his ball right of the green on the 18th, followed by a poor chip to 6 feet and failure to save par.

"That's not the way you want to finish," Woods said. "But I've got a shot going into tomorrow."

He's not alone.

Glover got into the mix with an eagle on No. 7 and did not drop a shot until he pulled his tee shot near the creek on the 18th, missed the green to the right and took bogey for a 68.

McNeill also was bogey-free until he three-putted from 40 feet on the 17th, then found a fairway bunker on the 18th that kept him from reaching the green, giving him a 70.

A dozen players were within four shots of the lead, a group that does not include Phil Mickelson.

He was only two behind going into the third round, but missed three birdie chances on the opening five holes, and right when Lefty seemed to get it together, it all came undone. He missed the green to the right on the par-5 10th, where the pin was tucked to the right on a difficult green. From 60 feet away, it took him five shots to get down. He made double bogey and wound up with a 75, leaving him eight shots out of the lead.

"That was where the turning point was," he said. "I felt like I tripled a hole, and just didn't get it going from there."

U.S. Amateur champion Danny Lee, the 18-year-old in his second tournament as a pro, appeared to be poised to make a run as the youngest winner in PGA Tour history. He was among those tied for the lead midway through the round and was bogey-free on a tough day until he was swallowed up at the end.

He pulled a 7-iron left into the water on the 17th to make double bogey, then dropped another shot at the 18th for a bogey. All that work, and he only had a 70 to show for it. Even so, he was five shots behind at 6-under 210.

"The last two holes really let me down," Lee said. "New start tomorrow."

Johnson already has won this year in Honolulu and will play in the final pairing with Glover, whose only PGA Tour victory came four years ago at Disney when he holed out a bunker shot at the 18th.

Coach among 12 injured in Cowboys' roof collapse

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Whenever a storm hits while the Dallas Cowboys are inside their practice facility, the sound of rain pelting the tent-like structure can drown out conversation. No matter the noise, safety rarely was an issue—until Saturday.

Wind that was just shy of tornado strength, and perhaps stronger, ripped through the roof during a rookie minicamp practice, essentially popping the so-called bubble. Between the falling debris and the furor to get out, special teams coach Joe DeCamillis broke his back and 11 more people were hospitalized.

About 60 others felt lucky to escape with only cuts and bruises.

"I saw it coming down and didn't have time to react," secondary coach Dave Campo said. "I hit the ground and was able to get back up."

DeCamillis, hired a few months ago, is likely to need surgery to fix "a couple of broken vertebrae" in his lower back but is expected to recover, said his father-in-law, Dan Reeves, the longtime NFL coach.

DeCamillis was among 10 people taken away by emergency vehicles. Two others went to hospitals on their own.

"Right now, I think we don't have anybody who is in a life-threatening situation," said Dr. Paul Pepe, head of emergency medical services for Dallas County.

Those with more serious injuries included a person with a head injury, one with an open fracture below the knee and someone who was impaled with metal, said Tommy Gonzalez, Irving's city manager.

Names of the injured were not released due to privacy issues. Players were told not to discuss the episode with reporters.

Just before the facility was flattened, wind was clocked at 64 mph, a single mph shy of the threshold for a weak tornado. However, National Weather Service meteorologist Gary Woodall said a "microburst" may have pushed the wind beyond 70 mph at the top of the structure. A microburst also was to blame for a 1985 Delta Airlines crash at nearby DFW airport that killed 137 people.

"The fact that there weren't more injuries is rather miraculous," Woodall said.

Also incredible: An Irving police spokesman said there was hardly any damage beyond the Cowboys' facility.

Before Bill Parcells was hired as coach in 2003, the Cowboys rarely practiced indoors, unless weather was bad enough for them to ride buses to a high school team's bubble. Parcells suggested that owner Jerry Jones build one, and it was finished in time for Parcells' first season at a cost of more than $4 million.

The no-frills building was pretty much a 100-yard football field with a few more yards of clearance all the way around. The roof was 80 feet high, the equivalent of an eight-story building.

On Saturday, there were 27 players—almost all drafted last weekend or signed as undrafted rookies—working out when the storm hit. Also in the building were coaches, support staff and media.

Nick Eatman of DallasCowboys.com escaped, but was knocked down by something hitting his back. He then heard someone screaming for help and realized it was coming from under a door frame. He recognized that it was Todd Archer of The Dallas Morning News because of a tattoo on his ankle.

Eatman and colleague Josh Ellis tried freeing Archer but the structure wouldn't budge. "It was like a car," Eatman said. Then safety DeAngelo Smith and linebacker Brandon Williams managed to lift it just enough for Archer to squirm out.

"I was trapped. I couldn't move," said Archer, who figures he was down 20 to 25 seconds. "Then those guys lifted it up - not very far, but I was able to move from my side to my back. ... Once I got out of there, I looked back and the whole thing was down."

Eatman said one of the swaying lights wound up more than two football fields away. The giant blue star atop the building lay crumpled on the ground. The storm knocked out power at team headquarters and splintered trees across the property. Power was out at team headquarters for about an hour.

"We're lucky no one got electrocuted with all the water in the building," head coach Wade Phillips said.

Larry Rodriguez, a television cameraman who in 2005 was attacked by Kenny Rogers while filming the former Texas Rangers pitcher, received six stitches to close a cut on a hand.

The team canceled Sunday's practice, the final one for the rookies. The first voluntary full-squad minicamp is May 19-21.

Mine That Bird pulls off upset in Kentucky Derby

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—The cowboy and his horse beat them all. Four Hall of Fame trainers. The ruler of Dubai. Two very sentimental favorites. Trainer Bennie Woolley Jr. hitched Mine That Bird to the back of his pickup and drove to the Kentucky Derby from New Mexico. With an inspired ride on the rail from Calvin Borel, it all added up to one of the greatest upsets in 135 years of America's most famous horse race.

"Those cowboys," trainer Bob Baffert said, "they came with a good horse."

Mine That Bird went off at 50-1 odds Saturday, but that was only one measure of how little attention he garnered before pulling away in the stretch to score a 6 3/4-length victory at Churchill Downs, the second-biggest stunner in Derby history. The margin was the largest since Assault won by eight lengths in 1946.

"All I asked him was to lay the horse back and be patient, and he did that magically," Woolley said.

That should have been no surprise since Borel used the same rail-hugging ride to win the Derby two years ago with Street Sense.

"I learned by Street Sense being so patient with these 3-year-olds," Borel said. "They can only go so fast, so far. When I hollered at him, he just went on."

Pioneerof the Nile was second. Musket Man was another nose back in third.

Papa Clem was fourth, followed by Chocolate Candy, Summer Bird, Join in the Dance, Regal Ransom, West Side Bernie, General Quarters, Dunkirk, Hold Me Back, Advice, Desert Party, Mr. Hot Stuff, Atomic Rain, Nowhere to Hide, Friesan Fire and Flying Private.

Mine That Bird ran 1 1/4 miles on a sloppy track in 2:02.66 and paid $103.20, $54 and $25.80. It was the second-largest payout in Derby history behind Donerail ($184.90) in 1913.

AP

Calvin Borel riding Mine That Bird reacts after winning the 135th Kentucky Derby horse race at Churchill Downs Saturday, May 2, 2009, in Louisville, Ky.

The 45-year-old Woolley, a former quarterhorse trainer who spent time on the rodeo circuit as a bareback rider, hobbled on crutches to the winner's circle. He broke his right leg in a motorcycle accident two months ago.

"I'm feeling like I never have before," he said. "I was just blown away."

Most of the pre-race storylines belonged to high-profile trainers like Baffert, who was recently elected to the Hall of Fame and whose colt Pioneerof the Nile was making his debut on dirt after racing on synthetic surfaces out West.

But the cowboy in the dark glasses and big black hat outfoxed Baffert and the likes of Bill Mott (12th with Hold Me Back), Nick Zito (17th with Nowhere to Hide), and D. Wayne Lukas, last with Flying Private.

Woolley, whose victory was worth $1.4 million, was no kinder to sentimental favorites Larry Jones and Tom McCarthy, two home-state trainers whose feel-good stories also dominated the headlines for most of the week.

Jones' horse, Friesan Fire, the 7-2 wagering favorite of 153,563 fans, was 18th in the 19-horse field. A year ago, Jones lost his filly Eight Belles, who ran a gallant second to Big Brown, then broke down after the finish line and had to be euthanized on the track.

Jones blamed Friesan Fire's poor showing on the muddy track and getting clipped on one of his legs out of the gate, drawing blood. The trainer said it may have jeopardized his chance of running in the May 16 Preakness.

"Beating one horse was better than running second and what happened last year," he said.

McCarthy, a 75-year-old retired high school principal who paid only $20,000 for General Quarters, captured the public's imagination with his one-horse stable. But the horse finished 10th and never found his footing in the slop.

"He came back to the barn choking in mud," McCarthy said. "One eye was completely packed shut and his one nostril was completely shut with mud. He coughed twice and it popped out."

Also leaving empty-handed was Sheik Mohammed al Maktoum of Dubai, whose duo of Regal Ransom and Desert Party failed to achieve his goal of winning the Derby after nearly a decade and millions of dollars spent trying.

The majority of the field prepped for the Derby on dirt tracks, although other horses were trying it for the first time after coming off synthetic surfaces.

Earlier, I Want Revenge became the first morning-line favorite to be scratched on Derby Day after inflammation was detected in the colt's left front ankle. The injury wasn't believed to be career-threatening but worrisome enough to prompt trainer Jeff Mullins and owner David Lanzman to withdraw.

Mine That Bird got squeezed coming out of the starting gate, but Borel took a firm hold and wrestled the horse to the rail while they were in last place.

They were 12th and going strong with a quarter mile to go, after working their way around Atomic Rain. Borel quickly angled Mine That Bird back to the inside with three-sixteenths to go and shot the gelding through a tight spot approaching the eighth pole.

"I had enough room," Borel said. "He's a small horse."

Once free, Mine That Bird quickly accelerated toward an improbable victory.

"I salute Calvin for his terrific ride," said trainer Todd Pletcher, whose Derby losing streak extended to 0-of-24. "It's an amazing story. It just shows you how special this race is. Anything can happen."

Borel's mind was on his parents during the race and he paid them tribute by crossing the finish line with his whip pointing to the overcast sky.

"If they could only be here to see what I accomplish in my life," he said, his voice choking.

Borel became the first jockey since 1993 to complete the Oaks-Derby double, having ridden Rachel Alexandra to an eye-popping 20 1/4-length victory Friday.

Woolley joined a parade of trainers who won with their first Derby starter, the sixth time in seven years it has happened.

Mine That Bird, the son of 2004 Belmont Stakes winner Birdstone, became the ninth gelding to win the Derby and just the second in the last 80 years, joining 2003 winner Funny Cide.

Palmer outpitches CC, Angels top Yankees

NEW YORK (AP)—Matt Palmer outpitched CC Sabathia for his second major league victory, and the Los Angeles Angels broke open a tight game in the late innings to beat the New York Yankees 8-4 on Saturday.

Kendry Morales homered and drove in two runs, Torii Hunter chased Sabathia with a two-run double in a four-run seventh and the Angels ended New York's four-game winning streak.

Red Sox 10, Rays 6

At St. Petersburg, Fla., Mike Lowell homered for Boston, Kevin Youkilis and Nick Green each drove in three runs, and Tim Wakefield (3-1) allowed five runs in five-plus innings to improve to 20-5 lifetime against the Rays.

Wakefield is 10-3 at Tropicana Field, where the Red Sox won for just the second time in their last 13 games.

Blue Jays 5, Orioles 4, 11 innings

At Toronto, Aaron Hill hit an RBI single in the 11th inning for Toronto.

Rod Barajas led off the 11th with a base hit off Brian Bass (0-1). After Travis Snider popped his bunt attempt to the mound, Barajas took second on Marco Scutaro's sacrifice and scored on Hill's single to right-center.

Rangers 9, White Sox 6

At Arlington, Texas, Hank Blalock homered and drove in four runs, Brandon McCarthy pitched five strong innings for Texas against his former team in a game that was delayed four times by rain for a total of 2 hours, 27 minutes.

McCarthy (3-0) allowed one run and three hits and had three strikeouts and didn't allow a walk in his first regular-season appearance against the White Sox, his team for parts of the 2005-06 seasons. With a 9-1 lead, McCarthy pitched a perfect fifth to make it an official game, then sat through a 70-minute rain delay.

Tigers 9, Indians 7

At Detroit, Curtis Granderson hit a two-run homer in Detroit's three-run eighth inning, and Joel Zumaya (1-0) won with 1 2-3 shutout innings of relief.

Detroit blew a 5-0 lead and trailed 7-6 before its big inning against Rafael Betancourt (0-1), rallying to end an eight-game losing streak to Cleveland.

Royals 10, Twins 7, 11 innings

At Minneapolis, Joakim Soria returned to his All-Star closing form for Kansas City, getting the last five outs.

Soria (1-0) made his first appearance in 10 games after resting a sore shoulder.

Athletics 3, Mariners 2

At Seattle, Gregorio Petit capped a three-hit night with a two-out single that scored Bobby Crosby from second in the ninth for Oakland.

Petit was making his season debut after being called up from Triple-A Sacramento on Friday to replace the injured Eric Chavez.

Pirates 8, Reds 6

At Pittsburgh, Nate McLouth's run-scoring single allowed Pittsburgh to stop a 22-inning scoreless streak in a span of only three batters and the Pirates held on to beat the Reds as Ross Ohlendorf won his third in a row.

McLouth had three hits and scored three times and Ramon Vazquez's two-run single keyed the four-run first inning that got the Pittsburgh offense going following consecutive shutout losses. The Pirates had lost four in a row and five of seven.

Cubs 6, Marlins 1

At Chicago, Ted Lilly struck out 10 in eight strong innings and hit a two-run double, powering the Chicago Cubs to victory over the Florida Marlins.

Ryan Theriot homered for the second consecutive day and Derrek Lee added a solo shot for the Cubs, who won their second straight after losing seven of nine.

Nationals 6, Cardinals 1

At Washington, Shairon Martis pitched a five-hitter and Adam Dunn hit a three-run homer for the Nationals.

Dunn connected in the fifth after first baseman Chris Duncan dropped Ryan Zimmerman's foul pop that would have been the last out of the inning.

Phillies 6, Mets 5, 10 innings

At Philadelphia, Shane Victorino's bases-loaded walk off Sean Green with two outs in the 10th inning lifted the Phillies to a victory over the Mets.

Green (0-2) retired the first batter he faced before Pedro Feliz reached on an infield single. Green hit pinch-hitter Matt Stairs with a pitch, but retired pinch-hitter Greg Dobbs on a fly ball.

Rockies 5, Giants 1

At San Francisco, Ryan Spilborghs homered twice and drove in three runs, Jason Marquis pitched a five-hitter and the Rockies beat the Giants.

Brad Hawpe also homered for the Rockies, who have won four of six. Garrett Atkins also drove in a run.

Astros 5, Braves 1

At Atlanta, Lance Berkman hit a first-inning homer, Hunter Pence had three hits and the Astros responded to their manager's call for more offense with a victory over the Braves.

Before the game, manager Cecil Cooper said, "Our big horses have got to hit. If they don't hit, the wagon don't move!"

Diamondbacks 4, Brewers 1

At Milwaukee, Dan Haren struck out 11 to win his third straight start and Justin Upton hit a homer to lift the Diamondbacks over the Brewers.

With Diamondbacks ace Brandon Webb sidelined with a nagging shoulder strain, Haren (3-3) has picked up the slack and Arizona is beginning to hit, winning five of the last seven.

Dodgers 2, Padres 1, 10 innings

At Los Angeles, Andre Ethier hit a bases-loaded RBI single in the 10th inning, giving the Dodgers a victory over the Padres.

The Dodgers' second walkoff win in two nights made them 9-0 at home, tying the franchise record set in 1946 in Brooklyn. They won 1-0 Friday night on a bases-loaded walk to Russell Martin in the ninth.

SIS in finals, GCA, MCS advance too

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan International School made it to the finals of both the girls and boys divisions of the 2009 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Basketball League, while Grace Christian Academy and Mt. Carmel School advanced, too.

The Lady Geckos secured the first finals seat in the girls division after walloping the GCA Lady Eagles in the semifinals Thursday, 49-17. In the second semis match at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, the MCS Lady Knights defeated Marianas Baptist Academy to set up a title duel with the Lady Geckos.

The Lady Knights and the Lady Geckos will dispute the championship tomorrow at 3pm at the Ada gym.

SIS will also have a shot at the boys division title after slipping past two rivals in the playoffs. The Geckos first downed the MBA Stormz Thursday, 59-39, and edged the MCS Knights, 58-52, Friday to earn the second finals berth.

The GCA Eagles took the first finals seat in the boys division after whipping Calvary Christian Academy.

GCA automatically gained a semis entry after ruling the regular season with a 9-1 record and was paired against the last seeded CCA Sharks. Mt. Carmel finished second in the regular season with a 7-3 mark, followed by SIS (6-4) and MBA (4-6).

The Geckos had to beat MBA first before advancing to the semis and face Mt. Carmel for the last championship ticket.

The Geckos and the Eagles title match will be played tomorrow at 4:30pm.

In the girls division, the Lady Knights were seeded first in the playoffs after their 5-1 record. SIS came at second with a 4-2 mark, followed by GCA (2-4), and MBA (0-6)

In the GCA-SIS semis pairing, the Lady Geckos held the Lady Eagles to two points in the third period to break the game wide open.

SIS was only ahead by a point after the first period, 8-6, and GCA remained afloat at halftime, behind by only 10 markers, 20-10. But things went from bad to worse for the Lady Eagles at the start of the second half, as only Kallie O'Connor scored for GCA in the third.

O'Connor's two-pointer was no match against the combined 16-point production of Sarah Johnson, Lila Mailman, and Marya Oestrech. Amber Roberts, Zoe Jewell, and Amy Hudkins added two points apiece in the Lady Geckos' third-quarter juggernaut for a big 38-12 lead, entering the final canto.

SIS still outgunned GCA in the fourth, 11-5, for the easy semis victory.

Girls

SIS 49 – Oestrech 14, Roberts 8, Mailman 8, Camacho 4, Johnson 4, Jones 3, Schultz 2, Jewell 2, Hudkins 2.

GCA 17 – O'Connor 9, Dela Rosa 4, Sablan 4.

Scoring by quarters: 8-6, 20-10, 38-12, 49-17.

Boys

SIS 59 – A. Lee 18, Wang 10, Brostom 9, S.J. Lee 7, H. Lee 6, Knecht 5, Graf 2, Barry 2, David 1.

MBA 37 – Jo 13, Samson 6, Sablan 5, Coelho 4, Torres 3, R. Park 2, S.B. Lee 2, K. Park 2.

Scoring by quarters: 11-12, 19-18, 36-30, 59-37.

Shirley's caging to start May 17, meeting tonight

The Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League will kick off on May 17 at the JP Center basketball court in Garapan.

This was decided during a meeting of team representatives at the family themed restaurant's Chalan Kanoa branch last Friday.

Organizer Boy Lincaso said they had to postpone by one week the tip-off for the basketball league so they wouldn't run conflict with the start of the UFO Basketball League, which tentatively will start on March 10.

The one-week delay will also give participating teams time to practice and secure their uniforms and muses for the May 17 opening parade and start date.

Lincaso said seven teams have confirmed their participation in the cagefest, namely Micronesian Brokers, Inc., G4S Security, Coca-Cola Micronesia, Advance Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, Pacific Trading, Co., Tan Holding Corp., and host Shirley's Coffee Shop.

Games will be held Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday with the curtain raiser set at 7pm followed by the 8:30pm nightcap.

Incidentally, Lincaso has set another organizational meeting at 6pm tonight, May 4, at the Shirley's Coffee Shop in Chalan Kanoa. Refreshments will be served and all teams must send representatives.

For more information on the Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League, call Lincaso at 233-4519 or 287-2926. ***(Mark Rabago)***

PACQUIAO

From Page 28

Hatton attempted to carry the fight to Pacquiao in the second round but was mostly ineffective as Pacquiao sized him up for a big punch. It finally came at the end of the round when he landed a left cross that flattened the English fighter.

"I'm surprised the fight was so easy," Pacquiao said. "He was wide open for the right hook. I knew he would be looking for my left."

Pacquiao was a 2-1 favorite, but few thought Hatton would go easily. His only loss came when he was stopped in the 10th round by Floyd Mayweather Jr., and he built a career and a reputation as a tough and aggressive fighter who wore his opponents down.

But he stood no chance against Pacquiao, whose punches came straight down the middle and landed with increasing frequency as the fight went on.

"I was just doing my job," said Pacquiao, who is a national hero in the Philippines and is fast becoming a hero among boxing fans. "I always try to do my best in the ring."

Pacquiao's best on this night quickly quieted a boisterous crowd of 16,262 at the MGM Grand arena, many of them who came over from England to sing and chant Hatton's praises. They didn't even get a chance to warm up, though, before Hatton was on the canvas for the first time of the night.

"The fight was no surprise to me," Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach, said. "We know he always pumps his hands before he throws a punch. He's a sucker for the right hook."

Hatton finally rose from the canvas after several minutes as doctors tended to him and Pacquiao's corner celebrated. He walked from the ring with a wry grin on his face, while his fans serenaded him with one last verse of "Winter Wonderland."

"That's boxing," said Floyd Mayweather Sr., Hatton's trainer.

On the same day Mayweather announced his return to the ring with a July 18 fight against Juan Manuel Marquez, Pacquiao stole the undefeated former champion's thunder with a performance that was so lopsided it looked like a sparring session. The southpaw easily got away from Hatton's wild advances and just as easily hit him with punches that shouldn't come from a fighter who was fighting above 130 pounds for only the third time.

Pacquiao weighed 138 pounds for the fight to 140 for Hatton, and was fighting a bigger man for the second time in a row. But nothing seems to bother the boxer who is so popular at home that there is talk of him running for president some day.

Pacquiao (49-3-2, 37 knockouts) earned $12 million for the fight, while Hatton (45-2) was paid $8 million.

On the undercard, Mexico's Humberto Soto knocked Benoit Gaudet of Canada down early in the ninth round and then stopped him with a flurry of punches to retain his 130-pound super featherweight title. It was the second defense of the title for Soto, who improved to 48-7-2 with 31 knockouts, while Gaudet fell to 20-2.

FIELDERS

From Page 28

Fleming had a no-hitter, walked three, and struck out three.

Rightfielder Chris Meyers and catcher Marvin Ngeskebei both went 2-for-2 with the former making a one-run double and one-run single. Ngeskebei scored two runs and a one-run double.

Third baseman Harry Nakamura had three RBIs and was 2-for-3 at bat, while centerfielder Josh Jones also hit 2-for-3, scored two runs, and made two doubles.

The best that Lion King could do before being awarded a win by forfeiture was reach second base in the second and third inning.

Fielders's entry to the finals had no complications, as they dominated D-9ers from start to finish.

Nokki Saralu started on the mound for Fielders, struck out seven, and allowed only four hits in 4.1 innings pitched. Juan Maratita finished the job with four strikeouts, one hit, and two walks.

The only time D-9ers scored was at the bottom of the third on a stolen base by Isaiah Lizama.

Fielders scored two runs in the first with Maratita making it home on a D-9ers error and Saralu reaching home plate on a J.D. Sablan double.

Peter Tenorio singled in the second inning, driving home Jonathan Celis, and Fielders tucked in two more runs in the third on D-9ers errors. Fielders fifth and last run came in the sixth inning with Tenorio scoring on a Sablan single.

ADA

From Page 28

ending the lopsided game.

The Twins absorbed their ninth loss in 11 games.

Dragons 5, Shell 2

In the first game, starting pitcher Nathan Camacho had nine strikeouts, allowed six hits, and walked three in 3.2 innings pitched in the Dragons' 5-2 triumph over Shell.

The Dragons defense allowed Shell to score only at the top of the third inning.

Perry Celis scored Shell's first run on a hit by pitch, while P.J. Sablan reached home plate on a Logan Martin single.

The Dragons had two runs in the first and took the lead with a three-run bottom of the fifth.

The Dragons improved to an 8-3 record for solo fourth place in the team standings, while Shell absorbed its ninth defeat against two wins.

KABIRIEL

From Page 28

1:31:42 to beat a field of 17 early morning risers that took part in the half marathon that started a little over 5:20am at the Oleai track and field.

"The race good for me. I liked what I ran this morning. It motivates me for training in the event coming up in Australia. I appreciate the help of my coach, Dan (Kimball), for giving me some speed workout and keep me going in my training. I also wish to thank all the volunteers, especially those who manned the water stations," said Kabiriel who is known in local running circles as the Roadrunner Bunny.

Kabiriel said he is happy with his time, despite clocking in more than two minutes slower than his personal record in the half marathon.

"Maybe if I do the race and there is someone in front of me, I will push myself to break my time. The hardest part was the start. The first three miles…I just don't like it because my system was not awake yet. Then after three miles, that's when my system said 'go and hit the road.'"

Finishing second to the Safety 1st System Inc. employee was Korean veteran runner Bae Jim Keum (1:34:26) followed by Coco Restaurant's Ronald Villafria (1:37:16) in third place.

Others who completed the rain-soaked 13.1-mile race were Quincy Johnson (1:45:45), Chang Whan Jang (1:48:58), Fred Camacho (1:52:27), Tamio Nishikido (1:52:28), John Douglas (1:56:42), Keone Chariton (2:09:23), Joshua Berger (2:10:52), Manny Sitchon (2:11:52), Yosh Gabaldon (2:14:57), Brad Ruszala (2:29:59), John Jenkins (2:42:50), and Bernard Samson (2:44:17).

The qualifier started at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility before Kabiriel and company headed to Beach Road. Runners then turned left and headed south to the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio for the first turnaround point. From PIC, runners headed back north for the second turnaround point at Winchell's in Garapan. From Garapan, runners returned to the track and field facility for the final 1 1/4 laps of the race.

With his victory in the CNMI Half Marathon Championships, Kabiriel will represent the islands in the 2009 Oceania Area Marathon & Half Marathon Championship.

Also dubbed as the 31st Annual Gold Coast Airport Marathon, the regional tournament will be held on July 5, 2009 in Gold Coast, Australia.

Returning Saipan resident Dawn Hammermeister was the lone woman competitor in the race Saturday but didn't finish. Even if she did, she wouldn't have been eligible to represent the CNMI in Australia because of Oceania's strict residency requirements.

Northern Marianas Athletics, which organized the qualifier, has not yet decided on who will accompany Kabiriel in his trip to the Land Down Under.

Kabiriel and the woman representative will get an all-expense paid trip to Australia, courtesy of the Oceania Athletics Association.

Besides the half marathon race, the 31st Annual Gold Coast Airport Marathon will also feature a marathon and wheelchair half marathon, Southern Cross University 10km Run, and the 2.25-km and 4-km junior races.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	17	9	.654	-
Boston	15	9	.625	1
New York	13	11	.542	3
Tampa Bay	10	15	.400	6 1/2
Baltimore	9	15	.375	7

Central Division

Chicago	12	10	.545	-
Kansas City	13	11	.542	-
Detroit	12	11	.522	1/2
Minnesota	12	12	.500	1
Cleveland	9	15	.375	4

West Division

Seattle	13	10	.565	-
Texas	11	12	.478	2
Los Angeles	10	13	.435	3
Oakland	9	12	.429	3

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Florida	14	10	.583	-
Philadelphia	12	10	.545	1
Atlanta	11	12	.478	2 1/2
New York	10	13	.435	3 1/2
Washington	6	17	.261	7 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	17	8	.680	-
Chicago	12	11	.522	4
Cincinnati	12	11	.522	4
Pittsburgh	12	11	.522	4
Milwaukee	12	12	.500	4 1/2
Houston	10	14	.417	6 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	17	8	.680	-
San Francisco	11	11	.500	4 1/2
Arizona	11	13	.458	5 1/2
San Diego	11	13	.458	5 1/2
Colorado	9	13	.409	6 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Chicago Cubs 6, Florida 1
Washington 6, St. Louis 1
Houston 5, Atlanta 1
Philadelphia 6, N.Y. Mets 5, 10 innings
Colorado 5, San Francisco 1
Arizona 4, Milwaukee 1
Pittsburgh 8, Cincinnati 6
L.A. Dodgers 2, San Diego 1, 10 innings
L.A. Angels 8, N.Y. Yankees 4
Toronto 5, Baltimore 4, 11 innings
Detroit 9, Cleveland 7
Boston 10, Tampa Bay 6
Kansas City 10, Minnesota 7, 11 innings
Texas 9, Chicago White Sox 6
Oakland 3, Seattle 2

QUAIL HOLLOW CHAMPIONSHIP

THIRD ROUND

Zach Johnson	70	67	68	205
Lucas Glover	68	71	68	207
Tiger Woods	65	72	70	207
George McNeill	69	68	70	207
Brendon de Jonge	72	69	67	208
Sean O'Hair	69	72	67	208
Retief Goosen	68	68	72	208
Bubba Watson	71	65	72	208
Y.E. Yang	72	71	66	209
David Toms	71	71	67	209
Ross Fisher	73	67	69	209
Davis Love III	70	69	70	209
Jason Dufner	67	71	71	209
Martin Kaymer	71	70	69	210
Danny Lee	71	69	70	210
Jeff Klauk	69	71	70	210
Jim Furyk	71	66	73	210
Nick Watney	71	71	69	211
Fredrik Jacobson	71	70	70	211
Ian Poulter	71	70	70	211
Bo Van Pelt	69	71	71	211

By The Associated Press

The Week in Sports

Local bets back in limelight

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After giving way to off-island triathletes for two weeks, last weekend was the local bets' time to return to center stage.

Department of Community and Cultural Affair's fourth straight title in the men's division of the Budweiser 2008-2009 Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League was sure worthy of a headline.

DCCA made the record after beating Beach Boys twice in the finals at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

In Game 1, DCCA tallied seven homers with Julian Camacho and Pete Tomokane drilling two homers apiece and Mel Sakisat, Jun Saralu, and Peter Camacho nailing one each to lift the team to a 28-5 win.

In Game 2, Julian added three more homers and five of his teammates chipped in one apiece to give DCCA a 16-11 triumph and claim the championship.

In the women's division, NMC Proa won its title showdown with Finance.

NMC shut out Finance in Game 1, 14-0, and capped its impressive season with an equally easy 25-10 victory in Game 2. NMC also won the season's pennant, finishing the regular season with a 10-2 mark before losing to Finance in the winner's bracket semifinals.

Over at the American Memorial Park tennis courts, CNMI junior tennis players also had their own show.

Melody Johnson and Rafael Jones pulled off contrasting wins to lead four other players on the champions list in the 2009 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships.

Johnson cruised her way to the girls' 14-and-under title via a straight sets win over the diminutive Neghar Rastguiy, 6-2, 6-0, while Jones needed three sets to beat perennial rival Christian Miller.

Miller, who downed Jones in the finals of the PIC netfest, 6-2, 6-3, took the opening set, 6-1. But Miller failed to notch his second straight victory over Jones, who stunned his foe with a similar 6-4, 6-4 win in the last two sets.

In the 10-and-under division, Carl Dela Cruz and Emily Jones eased past separate foes, while favored Ji Hoon Heo and Thea Minor lived up to expectations en route to claiming the 18-and-under division titles.

Heo made a record in the boys' 18-and-under division, as he became the winningest player in the CNMI Championships in that category.

This was the fourth straight time that Heo ruled the boys' 18-and-under singles division in the Commonwealth's junior tennis championships, allowing him to eclipse the record of Kim Hee Sung. Kim dominated the same event from 1999 to 2001, while Heo started his title run in the CNMI championships from 2006.

Another record was made in the same tournament, as this year's championships drew 69 players.

Other events last week worth mentioning were the Patriots' clinching of the No. 1 spot in the Junior League, Ray Tigilau's victory in the RGA April Ace, the Tigers' upset win over D-9ers, and McDonald's support to the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament.

The Patriots virtually took the No. 1 spot for the playoff round after topping defending champion Kagman Lion Heart, 7-4. Pending yesterday's results, the Patriots are holding a 13-1 mark

Tigilau recorded a season-best net score of 61 at Coral Ocean Point to clinch the Refaluwasch Golf Association April Ace title.

The Tigers caught a big fish in D9-ers, pulling off a 7-5 upset in their game in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League at the Francisco "Tan Ko' Palacios Ballfield.

McDonald's Saipan has joined the bandwagon of private companies supporting Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands' hosting of the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament next month.

McDonald's Saipan owner Joe Ayuyu last week handed over a check worth $2,000 to BANMI officials with the former hoping the donation could somehow help defray the cost for holding the Oceania caging here.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of DCCA pose with their championship trophy after beating Beach Boys in the finals of the Budweiser 2008 Inter Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League Thursday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Above, McDonald's Saipan owner Joe Ayuyu presents his company's $2,000 donation to BANMI officials for the group's hosting of the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament next month. The presentation was made Thursday at McDonald's Middle Road branch.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

NMC pitcher Felisa Brel, right, receives the Finals MVP trophy from Budweiser's Mel Tenorio during the awards ceremony for the 2008 Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League Thursday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Tigers' Manny Tenorio waits for the pitch in the bottom of the seventh inning of their game against D-9ers in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Steven Goodwin is among the record-field of 69 players who joined the 2009 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, girls' 10-and-under runner-up Carol Lee, and champion Emily Jones pose with their trophies during the awards ceremony for the 2009 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Patriots' Henry Rabualiman prepares to bat in a game in the Junior Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League.

No OT: Celtics top Bulls to win Game 7

After a record-setting seven overtimes in the first six games, the Celtics made an early night of it with a dominating stretch in the second. That's second quarter, not second OT.

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Sports

Local bets back in limelight

After giving way to off-island triathletes for two weeks, last weekend was local bets time to return to center stage.

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Pacquiao stuns Hatton with 2nd-round KO

Kabiriel tops half marathon qualifier

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel topped last Saturday morning's 2009 Half Marathon Championship, earning him a slot to represent the CNMI in the same event in Australia this coming July.

The 34-year-old mainstay of the Commonwealth's national athletics team tackled the 21-kilometer race in

See KABIRIEL on Page 26

MARK RABAGO
Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel crosses the finish line of last Saturday's 2009 Half Marathon Championships at the Oleai track and field.

AP
Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, left, throws a left to the head of British boxer Ricky Hatton in the second round of their junior welterweight title boxing match Saturday, May 2, 2009, at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP BOXING WRITER

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Manny Pacquiao was dominating. Ricky Hatton was left helpless. Pacquiao cemented his claim to being the best pound-for-pound boxer Saturday night with a spectacular performance that ended with Hatton sprawled out on the canvas after a devastating left hand to the head late in the second round.

Coming off an overwhelming win over Oscar De La Hoya, Pacquiao was even better against Hatton, knocking him down two times in the first round before finally stopping him with a vicious left hand that dropped Hatton for good in the 140-pound title bout.

Referee Kenny Bayless took one look at Hatton and declared the fight over at 2:59 of the round.

"I didn't have to count," Bayless said.

Pacquiao needed less than half a round to figure out the onrushing Hatton, hitting him with a flurry of punches midway through the first round before putting him down for the first time with a right hook to the head. Hatton got up at the count of eight but Pacquiao landed another flurry and dropped him again just before the end of the round.

See PACQUIAO on Page 26

Fielders in Senior League finals

Jets lose semis on technicality

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Fielders earned a finals stint in the Senior division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball following their 6-1 semis win over D-9ers yesterday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Kagman Lion King booked the first finals berth, winning via forfeit over the Jets.

Lion King protested the incomplete/improper uniform of Jets pitcher Toby Fleming and was eventually awarded the win.

The Jets submitted a letter of appeal yesterday morning and SLLB president Mike Borja said the board will meet either tonight or tomorrow to discuss the issue.

"But as of today (yesterday), the decision stands, Lion King won by forfeiture. We will review the ground rules and other regulation and look into the Jets appeal," Borja said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

When Saturday's semifinals game between Lion King and the Jets was halted after three complete innings, the latter was ahead 11-0.

See FIELDERS on Page 26

The Jets' Toby Fleming delivers a pitch during their semis game against Kagman Lion King in the Senior division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ada's no-hitter lifts A's past Enforcers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Century A's Davin Ada had a no-hitter in five innings, leading the Athletics to a 4-0 win over JPO Enforcers in the Major division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Ada tallied eight strikeouts before Max Castro relieved him at the top of the sixth inning.

Castro completed the shutout win with one strikeout and a walk.

Ada performed well at bat, too, hitting 2-for-2, including a two-run triple at the bottom of the first inning. He had another RBI after making a single at the bottom of the fifth that drove home Jaime Sasamoto.

The A's now have a 4-7 slate for solo sixth place in the 14-team field, while JPO Enforcers dropped to a 2-9 record.

Jets 13, Twins 0

Jose Lizama Jr. made 16 strikeouts, lifting the Jets to a 13-0 shutout win over the As Matuis Twins.

The Jets pitcher allowed only two hits and walked three in a no-relief job to improve his team's record to 9-2. Pending Sunday games' results, the Jets are tied with the Hustlers in second place. Ol'Aces lead the Majors with a squeaky clean 10-0 slate.

With Lizama doing the damage for the Jets at the mound, the best that the Twins could do was reach third base at the bottom of the sixth inning.

With runners on second and third base and with two outs, Lizama struck out Alex Litulimar foiling the Twins' bid to make it to the scoreboard and

See ADA on Page 26